

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN EDUCATION AND PARENTS ' INCOME WITH THE INCIDENCE OF CHILD MARRIAGE

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ABSTRACT

The phenomena of child marriage are still controversial in the society. According to the child protection law, someone aged less than 18 years is not allowed to get married. The marriage law states that it is legal for women married at the age of 16 as long as they get permission from their parents. Parents significantly play in their child's marriage decisions, and thus they become the actors for reducing the prevalence of child marriages. This study aimed to analyze the relationship between parental factors and the incidence of child marriage in Wonosari sub-district, Malang district. This study used an analytical-observational approach with a case-control design. This study was conducted in Wonosari sub-district, Malang district and involved 88 samples which were then divided into 44 people in the case group and 44 people in the control group, selected using a simple random sampling technique. Variables included child marriage, family income, and educational background of the head of the family. Data analysis was performed using the chi-square test ($\alpha=0.05$). The results showed that there was a relationship between educational background ($P = 0.000$) and family income ($P = 0.000$) with the incidence of child marriage. In conclusion, the educational background of the head of the family and family income were related to the incidence of child marriage. The Indonesian government should make a consensus regarding the age limit stated in between the marriage law and the child protection law by considering child's physical, mental, and reproductive health.

Keywords: child marriage, educational background, family income, parents' role, rural areas.

ABSTRAK

Fenomena pernikahan anak masih menyebabkan kontroversi di tengah masyarakat. Undang-undang perlindungan anak menyatakan seseorang yang berusia kurang dari 18 tahun tidak diperbolehkan untuk menikah. Undang-undang perkawinan menyatakan sah untuk perempuan yang menikah di usia 16 tahun asalkan mendapat izin dari orang tuanya. Peran orang tua sangat besar dalam keputusan pernikahan anaknya untuk menurunkan prevalensi perkawinan usia anak. Penelitian ini bertujuan menganalisis hubungan antara faktor orang tua dengan kejadian pernikahan dini di Kecamatan Wonosari, Kabupaten Malang. Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan analitik-observasional dengan rancang bangun potong lintang. Penelitian ini dilakukan di Kecamatan Wonosari, Kabupaten Malang sebanyak 88 sampel yang terbagi menjadi 44 orang pada kelompok kasus dan 44 orang pada kelompok kontrol, yang dipilih dengan teknik sampling acak sederhana. Variabel yang diteliti meliputi status pernikahan anak, pendapatan keluarga dan pendidikan kepala keluarga. Analisis data dilakukan dengan menggunakan uji chi-square ($\alpha=0,05$). Hasil penelitian menunjukkan terdapat hubungan antara pendidikan ($p=0,000$) dan pendapatan keluarga ($p=0,000$) dengan kejadian pernikahan anak. Kesimpulan dari penelitian ini adalah pendidikan kepala keluarga dan pendapatan keluarga berhubungan dengan kejadian pernikahan anak. Pemerintah Indonesia perlu membuat kesepakatan tentang batas umur pernikahan yang sesuai dengan kematangan fisik, mental, dan kesehatan reproduksi anak antara undang-undang pernikahan dan undang-undang perlindungan anak.

Kata kunci : pernikahan anak, pendidikan, pendapatan keluarga, peran orang tua, desa.

INTRODUCTION

The fifth Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) that asserts "achieving gender equality and empowerment of all women

and girls" is to reduce harmful practices in children, including child marriages and forced marriage. Marriage is the physical bond of a man and woman as a husband and wife to establish a happy and eternal family

or household in the name of God (Law of the Republic of Indonesia Number 1 of 1974) mentions marriage is permitted when the bride is 19 years old and the groom is at least 16 years old.

According to Law No. 35 of 2014 on the Amendment No. 23 of 2002 concerning child protection, a child is a person who is not 18 years old and a fetus in the womb. Child marriage occurs to couples who are less than 18 years old (Unicef, 2001). In the child development period, the female's reproductive organs are psychologically underdeveloped. Pregnancy during this period affects the health of fetus and his mother (Central Bureau of Statistics., 2017).

The Indonesian Ministry of Religious Affairs No. 11 of 2007 in Chapter IV Article 7 concerning marriage explains "If a prospective bride has not reached the age of 21 years, they must obtain a written permission from the parents". Children at this age should obtain parental permit because they are considered to go under guidance and supervision of their parents or guardians. In the permission letter, the parents or guardians must sign under their names to register their child to marriage registrar. If the bride is more than 21 years old, then they can be married without any permission from their parents or guardians. In Islamic wedding rules, parents' approval is the important aspect of marriage (Central Bureau of Statistics., 2017).

The phenomena of child marriage is still controversial in the community due to different viewpoints. Regarding legality aspect, the age limit in marriage is unclearly stated in law concerning marriage. One of the laws states a girl could be married at the age of 16 as long as she get permission from her parents. Individuals under or the same as 18 years old are considered as children who generally still need guidance, education, and supervision from their parents. These two viewpoints had no clear concensus on marriage age limit (Central Bureau of Statistics., 2017).

Pregnancy at the age of the child is at risk of premature birth, low birth baby weight (BBLR), childbirth bleeding that can increase pain, permanent disability and maternal and infant mortality. Childbirth in mothers under the age of 20 has contributed to the high number of neonatal mortality, postneonatal, infant, toddler, and maternal deaths. According to the SDKI 2012, neonatal mortality, post neonatal, infant, and toddler in mothers less than 20 years old are higher than the age of 20-39 years.

Girls aged 10-14 years have a risk of maternal and infant mortality five times greater than those aged 20-24 years. Globally, mortalities due to pregnancy are the leading cause of child mortality at the age of 15-19 years. Infants born from early pregnancy have a higher risk of death and are twice as likely to live less than 1 year compared to those born from mothers aged twenty years (Central Bureau of Statistics and UNICEF, 2015).

They also get higher chances of being born prematurely, having low birth weight, and suffering form malnutrition. Early pregnancy also is potential to have nutritional deficiency since mothers' body organs have not perfectly developed. When girls are still in pregnancy, the body will require more nutritional needs for their body development and fetus (Central Bureau of Statistics and UNICEF, 2015).

According to the 2012 Indonesian Demographic and Health Survey, the percentage of married women aged 15-19 years was at 12.8%. Based on the 2012 National Socio-Economic Survey, of all married women aged 20-24 years, 25% of them got married before the age of 18 years. The prevalence of child marriage increased in 2011 and stagnated in 2012. The percentage of married women aged under 18 years old in Indonesia was 24% in 2013 and 23% in 2015. The prevalence of child marriage decreased by about one percent. In 2015, the prevalence of child marriage was at 22.82% in Indonesia. Specifically, the national prevalence of child marriage in East Java province was at 24.45%, that

exceeds the national prevalence (Central Bureau of Statistics., 2017).

According to the 2016 Indonesia Central Bureau of Statistics report, East Java province was ranked 13th for the prevalence of child marriage (Central Bureau of Statistics and UNICEF, 2015). Specifically, Malang district was ranked the second with the highest female population. The district also had the most child marriage that mostly happened to women aged 10 at 21.23% in 2016 (Central Bureau of Statistics of East Java Province, 2017). According to the 2018 East Java Provincial Central Bureau of Statistics, 388 couples were registered to Malang District Religious Court for the proposal of a marriage dispensation. Of the proposals, Wonosari subdistrict had the lowest marriage dispensation proposals at 63.66%. While, Bululawang district had the highest prevalence of marriage dispensation at 246.14% (Central Bureau of Statistics of Malang District., 2018).

In Malang, 64.39% females aged 10 years already got married, while 76.10% females were married at the age of 15-49 years. The percentage of married women less than 18 years old was at 22.32%. Women who got married under 18 years mostly completed elementary school (59.62%) and junior high school and the equivalent (21.71%). Most of the women were in the Q1 category of expenses (25.68%), meaning that 20% of women aged 20-24 years got married under 18 years old with low expenditure (Central Bureau of Statistics of Malang District., 2015).

The data from the Marriage Management Information System at the Wonosari Subdistrict Office of Religious Affairs showed the percentage of women who got married under 18 years old was at 11.3% in 2015, 14% in 2016, 13% in 2017, and 11% in mid-2018 (January-June). There was an estimated increase in 2018 because the phenomena of child marriage were not counted until the end of the year.

The data from Marriage Management Information System asserted that in 2015 few women who married under 18 years old in 2015 completed high school (2%), and nearly half completed junior high school (46%). There were 46% women married under 18 years old completing elementary school, and 7% of them did not attain education. In 2016, 63% women married under 18 years old completed junior high school, and 33% had elementary school education. These data indicated that most of the women married under 18 years old had completed the basic education.

Mid-2018 the education of women who married before the age of 18 in the data above. However, the majority of women married young in the Wonosari Subdistrict Office of Religious Affairs completed elementary education. Child marriage not only prevents children to attend education, but also endangers reproductive health and socio-economic level.

The percentage of women ever married aged 20-24 years who married before the age of 16 years is less, but after reaching the age of 16 years before the age of 18 years the percentage is even greater. The Law No. 1 of 1974 in Article 7 Paragraph 1 concerning marriage mentions that marriage is permitted if the bride is 19 years old and the groom is 16 years old. Nevertheless, the Chapter 6 states marriage before the age of 21 years must obtain parental consent. Parental roles, therefore, contribute to decrease the prevalence of child marriage (Central Bureau of Statistics., 2017).

Individual factors, parental factors, and community environmental factors contribute to the prevalence of child marriage (Noorkcasiani., Heryati., & Ismail, 2009) mentioned there was a meaningful relationship between parents' income and the incidence of child marriage in Banyumanik subdistrict. The research of (Septialti, D., Atik, M., Djoko, N., & Yudhy, 2017) (Desiyanti, 2015) in Mapanget sub-district, Manado City found a significant relationship between parental

role such as communication and education model and the incidence of child marriage.

Another study in Plaosan sub-district, Magetan istrict discovered a significant relationship between maternal education and the incidence of child marriage (Dwinanda, A, R., Wijayanti, A, C., dan Werdani, K, 2015) (Unicef, 2001) in Africa found factors affecting child marriage in rural areas included family economic status and education (Das, Pankaj, 2017) mentioned gender inequality, culture, traditions, poverty, and parental perception of marriage as a protection were factors that affect child marriage.

Afterall, parents are one of the determinants of child marriage, and thus it is necessary to study the relationship between parents' education and income with the incidence of child marriage. This study aimed to analyze the relationship between education and parents' income with the incidence of child marriages in Wonosari district Malang.

METHODS

The study used an analytical analytical-observational approach because the researchers only performed observations on the existing data ,without any treatment or intervention. The research used a case-control designin that the study compared between the case group and the control group. This study was conducted in the Wonosari Sub-District Office of Religious Affairs, Malang District.

The case population was all parents whose children were married at the age of

18 years in 2015 to mid-2018 in the office as many as 127 people. The control population also involved all parents as many as 1388 people whose children were married in more than or equal to 18 years old in 2015 to mid-2018 . The primary data were collected through questionnaires, and the secondary data were obtained from the Marriage Management Information System.

Using a simple random sampling, this study selected 44 respondents in the case group and 44 respondents in the control group based on the calculation of $P2 = 0.4999911$ and $OR = 0.211111$, where the sample size per variable used $\alpha = 0.05$ with the ratio 1:1.

of the independent variables in this study were family income and family head's education. the data were then analyzed using chi-square test with $\alpha = 0.05$. This study has received an ethical approval from the Ethics Commission of Faculty of Public Health of Universitas Airlangga No.: 390-KEPK.

RESULT

Characteristics of respondents

Most of the respondents in the control and case groups were in the age of over 55 years. Half of the respondents in the case group completed elementary school (54.54%), and some of the respondents in the control group completed high School (31.81%). Regarding the economic status, the respondents in both groups had high income.

Table 1. Characteristics of Respondents in the Wonosari Subdistrict Office of Regilious Affairs in the period of 2015-mid-2018

Variable	Characteristics			
	Kasus		Control	
	N=44	Persentase	N=44	Persentase
Age of respondents:				
< 20 Year	0	0.0	0	0.0
20 – 35 Year	0	0.0	0	0.0
36 - 45 Year	10	22.73	8	18.19
46 - 55 Year	16	36.36	16	36.36
>55 Year	18	40.91	20	45.45

Variable	Characteristics			
	Kasus		Control	
	N=44	Persentase	N=44	Persentase
Total	44	100.0	44	100.0
Family Head Education:				
Not finished SD	14	31.82	4	9.10
Graduated SD	24	54.54	12	27.30
Graduate SCHOOL	5	11.31	12	27.30
Graduated SMA	1	2.27	14	31.80
Graduate School	0	0.0	2	4.50
Total	44	100.0	44	100.0
Family income:				
Low	14	31.82	0	0.0
Enough	30	68.8	28	63.64
High	0	0,0	16	36.36
Total	44	100.0	44	100.0

The relationship between family head's education and the incidence of child marriage

The distribution of child marriage based on family head's education is presented in Table 2:

Table 2. Distribution of child marriage based on the latest family head's education

Last Education	Child wedding			
	Kasus		Control	
	n	%	n	%
Not completed elementary school	14	31.81	4	9.1
Graduated from elementary school	24	54.54	12	27.3
Graduated from junior high school	5	11.36	12	27.3
Graduated from senior high school	1	2.27	14	31.81
Graduated from bachelors	0	0	2	4.54
Total	44	100.0	44	100.0

Table 2 shows the latest education attended by the family's heads of women married young in the case group was mostly elementary school (54.54%), while

of the latest education that the family head of those unmarried young in the control group was high school. A The results of chi-square test showed education variable =significantly affected ($P = 0.000$) the incidence of child marriage.

The relationship between parents' income and the incidence of child marriage

The distribution of child marriages based on family income is presented in Table 3.

Table 3. Distribution of child marriage based on family income

Family income	Child Marriage				Total	
	Case Group		Control Group		n	%
	n	%	n	%		
Low	1	31.8	0	0.0	1	15.9
Middle	4	2	8	3	8	65.9
High	0	0.0	1	36.3	1	18.2
Total	4	100.	4	100.	8	100.
	4	0	4	0	8	0

Based on Table 3, the percentage of parents in the case group whose children

were married young had medium family income. This study found income variable was significantly related to the incidence of child marriage ($p = 0.000$).

DISCUSSION

Characteristics of respondents

Most of the parents in the case group and control group were over 55 years old. Most of them in the case group had completed elementary school (54.54%), while those in the control group completed high school (31.81%). Both groups had medium income.

According to Blumm, the degree of health is influenced by behavior, affected by internal factors, such as age. The older individuals are, the more mature they are. In the sense of community belief, more mature individuals are more trusted since they have gained many experiences.

A study by (Andriani, 2013) in Tumpok Blang village, Sukamakmur District, Aceh Besar found parents who married their child at an early age were mostly in late adult age. It further found there was no meaningful relationship between parents' age and the incidence of child marriage in son. Supporting this fact, Hurlock's theory (1998) mentioned that parents with older age was considered more mature, more experienced, and more knowledgeable; therefore, they have considered the consequences of marrying their child. In the opposite way, child marriage put individuals at risks of reproductive health.

Family heads' education

In the case group, the parents graduated from elementary school mostly married their children at a young age (54.54%), while those in the control group who married their children at a young age completed high school. The education variable obtained P-value of $0.000 < 0.05$, meaning it was significantly related to the incidence of child marriage. In the same way, the research of (Desiyanti, 2015) in

Mapanget Manado, North Sulawesi province, found that there was a significant relationship between parents' education and early marriage. Family's education can influence parents' decision on child marriage. Teenagers whose parents were low-educated had a greater risk of getting married early since family was the first educational environment.

Education is a process whose elements consist of input (input), which is the educational target (output), which is a form of behavior and ability of educational suggestions. For example, the educational goal is to change unhealthy behavior. As humans can always learn and change to conform to changing environments. Based on Blum's intellectual process, education is a key process of generating human's behavior change operationally. There are three aspects in education; knowledge (cognitive), attitude (affective), and skills (psychomotor).

Andriani's research, (2013) in Tumpok Blang sub-district, Aceh Besar, found a meaningful relationship between parents' education and the incidence of child marriage. Parents with higher education are less likely to marry their child at an early age in that they have better knowledge than low educated parents.

(Arimurti, Intan & Nurmala, 2017) explained education level can affect knowledge of parents. (Kusumawati, 2017) further stated that there was a significant relationship between parents' education and the incidence of child marriage in women in Indonesia. Low parental knowledge will affect parenting model to their daughters.

The research of (Wijati, Yuanita Erry., Mawarni, Atik., Nugroho, Djoko., & Winarmi, 2018) in the North Cilacap district, Central Java province showed parents with primary education were at a high risk of 4,129 times to marry their children young. With regards to education, Faroque's study (2016) in Bangladesh found parents' education was the seventh most influential factor to explain the

variations of age for child marriage. Women whose parents were illiterate was married young at the average age of 17.802, and those whose parents were literate got married at the average age of 16.534 years. This implied that higher literacy level of the parents would tolerate older age for marriage.

(Dwinanda, A, R., Wijayanti, A, C., & Werdani, K, 2015) discovered there was a relationship between maternal education and the incidence of child marriage. Low educated mothers had the risk of 9.281 times to marry their children. This was in line with this present study's finding, which pointed out a low family head's education contributed to the incidence of child marriage. The family heads should have higher education since they would contribute to the decision-making in their family.

Family's income

Mos of parents who married their children young had medium family income. This variable had P-value of $0.000 < 0.05$, meaning it was related with the incidence of child marriage. Similarly, Septialti (2016) found a meaningful relationship between parents and the incidence of child marriage in Banyumanik district, Central Java province. Another study conducted in Kediri district, East Java province showed that economic status had a significant effect on the incidence of child marriage (Zain, 2017). Family with a low-middle economic level might have more intention to marry their children young. The same thing was found in (Wijati, Yuanita Erry., Mawarni, Atik., Nugroho, Djoko., & Winarmi, 2018). Moreover, from the cluster analysis in (Rosita, 2016), economic variable had a significant effect on the decision-making of child marriage in Probolinggo district, East Java province.

The latest research in Indonesia showed that poor and underprivileged girls in Indonesia faced the highest risk of child marriage. Adolescent pregnancy is also far more common among low-educated girls

from poor households compared to high-educated girls from wealthy households. Some parents marry their daughters for survival support when experiencing economic difficulties. They also believe that child marriage was the best way to solve their economic burden (Central Bureau of Statistics and UNICEF., 2015).

Faroque's study (2016) in Bangladesh showed that the average age of first marriage among poorest and wealthiest women aged 20-24 years was at 14.6 and 18.3, respectively. About 75% of rural girls got married before the age of 16 years, and only 5% were married after 18 years. Three to four women aged 20-49 years were married before the age of 18 years. In Bangladesh, child marriage remained common in rural areas and urban slums, especially among the poor. The economic condition of women was the most influential factor to child marriage. The average age in between of women with low and middle income who were married young was 16.302 and 17.316 years, respectively. The higher economic status will allow older children to marry.

According to (Mahfudin, Agus & Waqi'ah, 2016), family's low income forced a child to drop out of school and not pursue the higher education anymore. It was evidenced from the data that most of married women completed elementary school and junior high school.

CONCLUSION

Both control and case groups were dominated by parents aged over 55 years. Their family income was categorized medium, and the latest education that the parents in the case group completed was mostly elementary school (54.54%). Family's education and income variables significantly affected the incidence of child marriage.

With all these findings, school agencies should actively facilitate their students with knowledge of reproductive health. This can be done by collaborating

with health workers to provide routine campaign or by teaching relevant reproductive health materials in the school subjects.

For policyholders, it is necessary to determine the same age limit in marriage since martial law, child protection law and youth health program policy initiated by the Indonesian Family Planning and Population Board have different policies.

Primary healthcare centers and district health office can encourage health workers to always provide counseling on adolescent reproductive health. The Office of Religious Affairs should continue conducting guidance and campaign to the community, especially the youth about the importance of preparing a mature marriage.

Further study can be developed by adding other variables that affect child marriage, such as individual and environmental factors.

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