

The Culture and Age of First Marriage on Female Teenagers in West Marawola

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Abstract

Age of First Marriage is the age at which a person is legally and biologically married for the first time. According to UNICEF, the percentage of women who decide to get child marriage in the world throughout 2016 is 12 million. Southeast Asia and Asia-Pacific are the highest in the number of child marriage. In Southeast Asia, Indonesia ranks second highest for child marriage. The purpose of the study was to determine the factors associated with the age of first marriage in young women in West Marawola Sub-District. This research was categorized as quantitative research with *cross-sectional* approach. The population was young women aged 10-24 in the West Marawola Sub-District with a percentage of 988 people taken as the sample (*Proportionate Stratified Random Sampling*). The analysis was conducted using univariate and bivariate analysis at a confidence level of 95% (). The chi-square test results showed that Knowledge ($=0,001$), Parental Support ($=0,000$), Culture ($=0,040$), and Family Planning Instructor ($=0,037$) are related to the Age of First Marriage. It is expected that this research is able to socialize the age of marriage, so that young women can delay their marriage.

Keywords: *Age of first marriage, Knowledge, Parental Support, Family Planning Instructor.*

Introduction

Child marriage is a marriage conducted a couple in not ideal age, either men or women, when they are not in ideal age, if a marriage is still held, it can be said as child marriage. The government program, in this case the BKKBN (National Population and Family Planning Board), said that the ideal age for marriage is 21 years old for women, and 25 years old for men.¹

Globally, it is estimated that 12 million women decide to get child marriage in the world. Southeast Asia and Asia-Pacific are the highest in the number of child marriage. In Southeast Asia, Indonesia ranks second highest for child marriage as 1 in 3 children gets child marriage. There is a relationship between child marriage and poverty and the low education opportunities.²

In Indonesia, the average age of first marriage (UKP) is 20 years, and this has not yet reached the targets of the National Population and Family Planning Board (BKKBN) for at least 21 years old for women and 25 years old for men.³

In Central Sulawesi Province, the average Age of First Marriage is 19 years old from the percentages of 459,795 couples of childbearing age in total, with the percentage for married wives <21 years old of 57.29% and the percentage of married husbands <25 years old of 21.34%. Central Sulawesi ranked the second highest for age of first marriage in Indonesia (BPS, 2017). Sigi was one of the highest average age of first marriage of 19.96 years old with a percentage of married wives <21 years old was 59.08% and a percentage of married husbands <25 years old was 25.67%. The age of first marriage in Marawola Barat District was the highest, with a total of 1,427 couples of childbearing age, the percentage of married wives <21 years old was 73.56% and the percentage of married husbands <25 years old

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was 76.45%⁴.

Materials and Method

This research is categorized as an analytical survey research with a quantitative approach. This research used *Cross-Sectional* design, where the cause or risk variables and the consequences or cases that occurred in the research object were measured or collected at the same time.

The population in this study was young women aged 10-24 years, as many as 988 people in Marawola Barat Sub-District, Sigi Regency, Central Sulawesi Province. There were 91 respondents taken as the sample of the research using the Slovin formula. The sampling was conducted using *Proportionate Stratified Random Sampling* or simple random sampling, which used certification technique.

Results

Based on the research conducted in West Marawola Sub-District, the characteristics of respondents can be seen in the following table:

Table 1: Characteristics of Respondents

Characteristics	F	%
Age		
10-12 Years Old	1	1.1
13-15 Years Old	10	11.0
16-18 Years Old	34	37.4
19-21 Years Old	25	27.5
22-24 Years Old	21	23.1
Total	91	100.0
Age of first marriage		
<21 Years Old	78	85.7
≥ 21 Years Old	13	14.3
Total	91	100.0
Educational Background		
Elementary School	11	12.1
Junior High School	45	49.5
Senior High School	33	36.3
University	2	2.2
Total	91	100.0
Parents' Educational Background		
Not Graduated from Elementary School	2	2.2
Elementary School	14	15.4
Junior High School	51	56.0
Senior High School	24	26.4
Total	91	100.0

Most of respondents have Junior High School Education with a percentage of 49.5%, and most of their parents have Junior High School Education with a percentage of 56.0%. Factors related to the age of first marriage in female teenagers in Marawola Sub-District:

Table 2: Factors related to the age of first marriage in female teenagers in Marawola Sub-District

Knowledge	Age of first marriage				Total	P
	<21 Years Old		≥ 21 Years Old			
	F	%	F	%		
Poor	53	96,4%	2	3,6%	55	0,001
Good	25	69,4%	11	30,6%	36	
Total	78	85,7%	13	14,3%	91	
Parental Support						
Good Support	66	94,6%	4	5,7%	70	0,000
Less Support	12	57,1%	9	42,9%	21	
Total	78	85,7%	13	14,3%	91	
Culture						
Good Support	51	92,7%	4	7,3%	55	0,040
Less Support	27	75,0%	9	25,0%	36	
Total	78	85,7%	13	14,3%	91	
Family Planning Instructor						
Bad	61	91,0%	6	3,6%	67	0,037
Good	17	69,4%	7	30,6%	24	
Total	78	85,7%	13	14,3%	91	

Of 36 people who have good knowledge, there are 25 people (69.4%) got married at the age of <21 years. The statistical test resulted in $\rho = 0.001$, so that $\rho < 0.05$, thus, H_0 in this study was rejected, means that there is a relationship between knowledge and Age of First Marriage in West Marawola Sub-District.

The data in table 2 shows that from 70 people who give parental support to their children, there are 66 people (94,6%) have their children married at the age of <21 years. While from 21 people who give less parental support to their children, there are 12 people (69.4%) have their children married at the age of <21 years. The statistical test resulted in $\rho = 0,000$, so that $\rho < 0.05$, thus, H_0 in this study was rejected, means that there is a relationship between Parental Support and Age of First Marriage in West Marawola Sub-District.

The data in table 2 shows that from 55 people (92.7%) who have a good cultural support, there are 51 people (92.7%) got married at the age of <21 years. While from 36 people (75.0%) who have a poor cultural support, there are 27 people (75.0%) got married at the age of <21 years. The statistical test resulted in $\rho = 0.040$, so that $\rho < 0.05$, thus, H_0 in this study was rejected, means that there is a relationship between culture and Age of First Marriage in West Marawola Sub-District.

The data in table 2 shows that 67 people accompanied by the bad PLKB (Family Planning Instructor), there are 61 people (91.0%) got married at the age of <21 years. While from 24 people accompanied by the good PLKB (Family Planning Instructor), there are 17 people (69.4%) got married at the age of <21 years. The statistical test resulted in $\rho = 0.037$, so that $\rho < 0.05$, thus, H_0 in this study was rejected, means that there is a

relationship between PLKB and Age of First Marriage in West Marawola Sub-District. child marriage⁹

Discussion

Knowledge and Age of first marriage

Knowledge is the result of knowing from humans who simply answered the “*what*” questions happen after they conduct imaging on a particular object.⁵

The statistical test resulted in $\rho = 0.001$, so that $\rho < 0.05$, thus, H_0 in this study was rejected, means that there is a relationship between knowledge and Age of First Marriage in West Marawola Sub-District. There were more respondents with the Age of First Marriage < 21 years who have poor knowledge compared to those who have good knowledge.

This research is in line with the research conducted by Priyanti *et al.*⁶ which, based on the results of Chi-Square analysis, found a significance level of $\rho = 0.001 < 0.05$ which statistically proved that there is a relationship between knowledge of respondents and child marriage.

The results of this research are in line with the research conducted by Dwinanda *et al.*⁷. Based on results of the analysis on the analysis on the respondents with poor knowledge, from 55 respondents who have good knowledge, there were 14 respondents (87.5%) got child marriage and 2 respondents (12.5%) did not get child marriage.

From 36 respondents with good knowledge, there were 25 people (69.4%) got married at the age of < 21 years and 11 people (30.0%) got married at the age ≥ 21 years. This is because they already know about the risks of child marriage, which has an impact on their future, now and in the future. The results are in line with the study conducted by Smith *et al.*⁸ that there is no relationship between knowledge and the high rate of child marriage in the Philippines.

Parental Support and Age of first marriage

In society, there are some parents or family members who consider child marriage as a common phenomenon. There are many parents in traditional societies still believe that investing in a girl’s education is wasteful, as she is only going to get married and being a housewife in the future. This concept is strongly influencing the illiterate fathers, fathers with lower level of education have a higher tendency to have their daughters conduct

The statistical test resulted in $\rho = 0,000$, so that $\rho < 0.05$, thus, H_0 in this study was rejected, means that there is a relationship between Parental Support and Age of First Marriage in West Marawola Sub-District. This research is in line with the research conducted by Desiyanti¹⁰, that from 34 respondents (68.0%) stated parental support to their daughters to get child marriage as it will improve their economy and to have the better economy, because their daughters will be supported by their husbands who have great capital that raises an understanding that the marriage of their daughters will improve the economy of the parents.

The results obtained at the location of the study showed that from 70 people who give parental support to their children, there were 66 people (94.6%) have their children get married at the age of < 21 years as it is dominated by economic factors. Parents who cannot afford to pay for their living and school sometimes make their children to decide to get child marriage. This study is also in line with the research conducted by Naveed & Butt¹¹ on poor families with low education level that parents do not have the resources to send their daughters to school. Parents choose to let their daughters get married as early as possible to set free from responsibility.

Culture and Age of first marriage

Child marriage is a behavior learned by adolescents from the environment in which they live. The environmental influence in question is the existence of values and norms that develop in the community related to the existence of a young woman and the concept of marriage¹².

The culture of child marriage is a culture that has become customary law and is still preserved nowadays which is carried out in several ways, such as arranged marriages, spells (witchcraft), and prohibition the younger sibling to get married before the older sibling to avoid the older sibling to be a spinster, as if the younger sibling wants to get married before the older one, there must be dowry offered to the older sibling and so on.¹³

The statistical test resulted in $\rho = 0.040$, so that $\rho < 0.05$, thus, H_0 in this study was rejected, means that there is a relationship between culture and Age of First Marriage in West Marawola Sub-District. It is similar to the research conducted by Desire¹⁴ in Myanmar that support for child marriage is influenced by the

surrounding environment. The environmental influence in question is the existence of values and norms that develop in the community related to the existence of a young woman and the concept of marriage.

From 55 people (92.7%) who have a good cultural support, there were 51 people (92.7%) got married at the age of <21 years. This is predominantly because the customary law is still upheld by the people in West Marawola Sub-District, if there is a couple is dating and tends to do negative things, they will be forced to get married soon and pay fines or customary sanctions apply in accordance with the provisions and the severity of the violation. As stated in the research conducted by Rahardjo & Imron¹⁵, it becomes a culture for young women to get child marriage since the environment and their peers experienced it.

Family Planning Instructor and Age of first marriage

The Family Planning Instructor (PKLB) is the spearhead of the Population, Family Planning and Family Development program that is given full duty, responsibility, authority and rights by authorized officials to carry out counseling, giving service, evaluation and development of the National Family Planning³.

The statistical test resulted in $\rho = 0.037$, so that $\rho < 0.05$, thus, H_0 in this study was rejected, means that there is a relationship between PLKB and Age of First Marriage in West Marawola Sub-District. This research is in line with the research conducted by Astuti, E (2014), The Role of Family Planning Instructor (PLKB) in Population Growth Control in Sungai Dama Village, Samarinda Ilir Sub-District was running poorly because there were still many people who do not understand the importance of KKBPK and the performance of PLKB was not maximal due to the lack of socialization and improvement of skills for the community, especially for adolescents, concerning reproductive health and child marriage.

The results obtained from the location of study showed that 67 people accompanied by the bad PLKB (Family Planning Instructor), there were 61 people (91.0%) got married at the age of <21 years. This is because the PLKB did not socialize the KKBPK programs, especially for the youth-friendly programs, related to reproductive health, preparation of family life, the far distance between each village, and the notion that information is not needed in West Marawola Sub-District.

This research is also in line with the research conducted by Mengistu¹⁶ in Ethiopia, that the Performance of Healthcare Personnel in disseminating information is very important, and it could be measured how many officers reach the goal of changing perspectives and behaviour in the success of Population, Family Planning and Family Development programs especially for the Maturity of Age of Marriage¹⁷.

Conclusions and Suggestions

Knowledge, parental supports, culture, and family planning instructors became the factors related to the age of marriage in young women in West Marawola Sub-District, so that it requires special attention from the government to embrace and provide awareness for young women, to provide opportunities and facilities in accessing information through KIE Maturity of Age of Marriage and to improve coordination related to cooperation with BKKBN in increasing public knowledge about the maturity of age of marriage.

Ethical Clearance- Taken from University Ethical committee

Source of Funding- Self

Conflict of Interest – Nil

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