

EXPLORATION OF THE PHENOMENON OF EARLY MARRIAGE IN KAMPUNG BADRAN, YOGYAKARTA CITY: A QUALITATIVE STUDY

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ABSTRACT

Data obtained from the DIY Women's Empowerment, Child Protection and Population Control Service shows that in 2019 early marriages reached 394 cases and increased to 948 cases in 2020 with women under 19 years of age. The increasing number of early marriages in the Yogyakarta Region is important to note because Yogyakarta is a destination for students from outside the region to continue their education. Objective: The purpose of this study was to determine the perceptions of female adolescent about early marriage in the Badran Village Area of Yogyakarta City. Method: This study uses a qualitative method with a phenomenological approach. Data collection techniques were carried out through in-depth interviews and Forum Group Discussions (FGD). Research informants consisted of female adolescent and parents who had young daughters. Results: This study resulted in young women's perceptions about early marriage. The causes of early marriage are due to following social media trends, being matched by parents and getting pregnant outside of marriage. The impacts on female adolescent include health impacts, psychological impacts, social impacts, economic impacts and educational impacts. The impacts on parents are that the age difference with their children is not far and they feel calm that their children are married. Efforts to prevent early marriage are carried out by young women, parents, communities and schools. Conclusion: Perceptions of female adolescent about early marriage include the causes of early marriage, the impacts of early marriage, causes of early marriage and efforts to prevent early marriage.

Keywords: early age; marriage; perception; young women

INTRODUCTION

Perception is a process of processing information received by the five senses from the environment and forwarded to the brain for selection so that it gives rise to an interpretation in the form of an assessment of previous sensing or experience. The form of perception is not only carried out by sight, but with complete sensory organs in order to produce maximum data and in accordance with the reality in the field. The stimulus is strong so that the results obtained are more specific. Positive perceptions and negative perceptions will always influence a person in taking action. And the emergence of a positive perception or negative perception all depends on how the individual describes all his knowledge about an object that is perceived (Shandi, 2020). According to WHO, early marriage is a marriage carried out by a couple or one of the partners is still categorized as a child or adolescent under the age of 19 (Jematu, 2023). According to UNICEF, among girls aged 20 to 24 in least developed countries, 12% were married before the age of 15, and 38% before the age of 18 (2019; based on data from 2007 to 2017. UNICEF estimates that 25 million child marriages have been prevented over the past decade, but substantial progress is needed to eliminate the practice by 2030 (Psaki et al., 2021). According to data from the Central Statistics Agency (BPS) in 2018, Indonesia currently ranks second in the ASEAN region. The percentage of early marriage incidents in Indonesia has increased to 15.66% compared to the previous year of 14.18% (Siswianti, 2022). During the Covid-19 pandemic, the number of early marriages continued to increase, in 2020, BPS recorded that 30.57% of women were married at an early age. Meanwhile, for adolescent boys who had early marriages, 6.40% (Siswianti, 2022).

Based on data obtained from the Early Marriage Study Team at the DIY Women's Empowerment, Child Protection and Population Control Service, it shows that in 2019 there were 394 cases of early marriage, and experienced a very high increase to 948 cases in 2020. This happened because in 2020 it was discovered that the new criteria for early marriage were under the age of 19 years from the previous year which still referred to under 16 years for women (Supianto, 2023). This can be seen in the culture of people who have a tendency to marry at an early age because their parents feel ashamed if their daughters who are considered adults even though they are not old enough to marry do not get married immediately. (Satriyandari, 2019). Intan (2017) also said that the low level of knowledge possessed by women influences the behavior of early marriage, and makes people continue to marry at an early age which will later have an impact on health (Anggraeni et al., 2019). Another factor according to Bajracharya and Amin (2012) is that early marriage is an economic strategy to reduce the financial burden on families who care for or educate girls, especially in communities with limited opportunities for female workforce participation. Girls choose to marry early when their parents are unable to support them at home or to support them to continue their education (Psaki et al., 2021). In terms of health, Karlina (2016) stated that early marriage has negative health effects that can cause maternal and infant diseases such as miscarriage, cervical cancer, susceptibility to infection during pregnancy, bleeding, prolonged labor and the risk of preeclampsia. While in infants, for example, LBW, death and prematurity. This happens because the mother's reproductive organs are not yet mature. This disease can occur in women who marry at an early age (Siswianti, 2022).

METHOD

This study was conducted using a qualitative method with a phenomenological approach. The subjects or informants in this study were selected purposively (purposive sampling). This technique is suitable for research that requires in-depth study because data sources are expected to provide in-depth data because they have special knowledge and experience that researchers will use to answer research questions (Purwanza et al., 2022). In-depth interview and focus group discussion was conducted to collect the data.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Focus group discussion (FGD) was conducted on 5 female adolescents with an age range of 16-19 years. The characteristics of the informants can be seen in the following table.

Tabel 1.
Characteristics of Informants

Informants	Age	Education
A	18 Th	Senior High School
F	16 Th	Senior High School
L	19 Th	Vocational High School
N	19 Th	Senior High School
W	17 Th	Vocational High School

The results of this study generally show that knowledge, environment and personality are part of the perception of female adolescent about early marriage. This perception influences their belief in the truth of early marriage, whether they agree or disagree. Meanwhile, the beliefs that arise in parents influence the perception of young women:

Characteristics of female adolescent who marry early

Female adolescent who have characteristics of early marriage, in general, they are in a transition phase from childhood to adulthood, where emotional and psychological maturity has not been fully achieved. Female adolescent are often not ready to face the various challenges and responsibilities that accompany married life. According to informants, the age of early marriage is 16 to 23 years. In addition, informants said that early marriage occurs in female adolescents with low educational backgrounds and are in a relationship.

"... yes, if early marriage is under 20, under 23, then over 16, the term is ..." (U, 53 years old).

"Yes, like dropping out of school" (A, 18 years old).

"Then the one who was dating first and then seemed like he wanted to get pregnant, sis" (A, 18 years old).

Educational background of female adolescents and their parents

The results of the focus group discussion showed that female adolescent with low levels of education tend to be more vulnerable to early marriage due to lack of awareness and limited life choices. Female adolescent who engage in early marriage are still in high school and vocational school. The informant also said that the education of parents who allow their children to engage in early marriage has a low education.

"Usually it's high school or vocational school" (A, 18 years old).

"Maybe (parents) are around junior high school to high school" (FGD, W, 17 years old).

Causes of early marriage

The results of data collection show that there are several causes of early marriage, namely following the trend of early marriage and being arranged by parents. Apart from that, the informant said that early marriage was caused by frequently watching pornographic videos, promiscuity, pregnancy out of wedlock. The informant also said that early marriage occurred because of a lack of understanding of religion.

"Yes, when you see friends of the same age who are married, you always feel like you just want to try it," (A, 18 years old).

"Maybe the parents are still having financial difficulties, so their children are quickly getting married so they don't become a burden on their family's responsibilities," (A, 18 years old).

"Seeing porn videos makes me want to" (FGD, F, 16 years old)

Impact of early marriage.

Early marriage has significant negative impacts on health, psychology, social, and economy. Informants said that female adolescents who marry early often experience complications and premature births. In addition, female adolescents who marry early are also susceptible to stress and anxiety in adjusting to the new role of female adolescent as wives and mothers. They feel unprepared because of the emotional pressure to face the demands and responsibilities of marriage.

"But on average, if those who give birth at a young age are mostly premature, right?" (FGD, N, 19 years old).

"... what they are experiencing now is stress. Yes, the stress referred to here is stress that must be what they think about, yes, maybe it doesn't drag on to regret early marriage, but there must be regret, even if it's only a little, but there must be regret for those who marry early ..." (AE, 44 years old).

In addition, female adolescents who marry at an early age often find themselves separated from their group of friends who are still focused on education, social activities, and enjoying their teenage years. When a young woman takes on the role of wife and mother, her priorities and responsibilities change drastically, making it difficult to maintain relationships with peers who do not have similar experiences or responsibilities. Informants stated that couples who marry early because of the young woman getting pregnant first, most of the men do not have the skills or work experience to get a job with a stable income. Therefore, their income tends to be low and cannot meet household needs.

"Their friends distance themselves, they can be teased ..." (FGD, A, 18 years old).

"It's like they're not ready to work yet" (FGD, N, 19 years old).

"... That's why children who marry early, they only think about the good things, just having fun, not thinking about having to take care of their children, having to give them nutritious food, not to mention clothes, not to mention the child having a cold, if it's a problem for the economy, then the parents will definitely be the ones who have to take part ..." (U, 53 years old).

Prevention of early marriage

This effort involves various actions taken by various parties, starting from the young women themselves, parents, the surrounding community, to the school environment. Each party has an important role in ensuring that young women have the opportunity to grow and develop without being burdened by the responsibilities of marriage at a too young age.

"...if you want to make friends, choose your friends, so you don't fall into promiscuity..." (FGD, F, 16 years old).

"Yes, maybe parents can get closer to their children, so that children don't feel lonely and look for an outlet for things they don't want" (FGD, F, 16 years old).

"It's better to give you information about education, how about gathering something like that, for example at a patrol post or in a field, and then telling you about the importance of the future impact, what about early marriage" (A, 18 years old).

"...Have lots of activities, for example taking part in outside activities, extras, OSIS, like that, sis..." (A, 18 years old).

Female adolescents in Kampung Badran who are engaged in early marriage are still in school at the Senior High School (SMA) and Vocational High School (SMK) levels. This is related to research conducted by (Sintia, 2022) which states that adolescent girls with low education tend to be more vulnerable to early marriage due to lack of awareness and limited life choices. Early marriage results in adolescent girls dropping out of school, as in research (Laksono et al., 2021) which states that early marriage is directly related to girls dropping out of school. When adolescent girls drop out of school, they are at higher risk of experiencing domestic violence and abuse, increased economic dependence, and are more likely to not be given the authority to make decisions. Based on the results of the study, adolescent girls who engage in early marriage are

caused by factors such as following social media trends, being matched by their parents and getting pregnant out of wedlock. Adolescent girls follow the trend of early marriage through social media with the current increasingly sophisticated developments. This is in accordance with research conducted by (Kenny et al., 2019) stating that increasing access to information technology, a woman in Puntland explained that female adolescent see other people on the internet and want to imitate their style. Increasing access to mobile phones equipped with the internet has resulted in opportunities for female adolescent to establish relationships in ways that are difficult for their parents to understand.

The impact of early marriage on female adolescent is such as social, psychological, health and educational impacts for perpetrators of early marriage (Sintia, 2022). The results found in the field, there are impacts on female adolescent and impacts on parents. The impacts on female adolescent conveyed by informants are health impacts, psychological impacts, social impacts, economic impacts and educational impacts. The impact on parents is that parents feel calm because their daughters are already responsible for their life needs. Kusmiran E (2011) in (Aryani, 2021) stated that the risk of pregnancy at a young age is very vulnerable, especially in young marriages there are health risks with female partners during pregnancy and childbirth. This is in accordance with this study, that one of the common complications is premature birth, where the baby is born before reaching a sufficient gestational age for optimal development. The body of a adolescent who is not yet fully physically mature is not ready to undergo the process of pregnancy and childbirth, which can cause various health problems for the mother and baby. All of this can have a negative impact not only on physical health, but also on the mental health of young women, who have to face great challenges at a very young age.

The psychology of female adolescent who marry at an early age will experience drastic changes in their daily lives and lose their teenage years which should be filled with self-development. Female adolescent who marry early feel prestigious from their peers, because the responsibilities of female adolescent who marry at an early age are very different from their peers who can still broaden their experiences. Mansur (2009:129) in (Sintia, 2022) states that when deciding to get married and become parents, but have not completed their education and are not financially independent, it means that the couple does not have the opportunity to gain experience with friends who are not yet married. This can cause problems in adjusting to married life. Early marriage has a social impact faced by young women. Drastic changes in daily life after marriage and the loss of adolescence which should be filled with self-development can trigger feelings of regret. This often leads to depression, anxiety, and other emotional disorders. Female adolescent who marry early also feel alienated from their peers, because they do not have the freedom to play like before marriage. This was conveyed by Sibagariang E E, et al (2010) in (Aryani, 2021) stating that adolescence is a time of searching for identity and requires socializing with peers. Socially, early marriage will be a topic of conversation for peers and society. Losing time to socialize with peers results in adolescents not being able to talk about the problems they face.

CONCLUSION

Perception of female adolescent about early marriage in Kampung Badran, Yogyakarta City about female adolescent who marry at an early age tend to show some special characteristics. Characteristics of female adolescent who marry at an early age are the age range of 16-20 years, education and dating status. Knowledge about early marriage includes the education of female

adolescent who marry at an early age, the education of parents of female adolescent who marry at an early age, the readiness of female adolescent to marry and cases of early marriage. The causes of early marriage are due to following social media trends, being matched by parents and getting pregnant outside of marriage (free association, watching pornographic videos and lack of understanding of religion). The impact of early marriage includes the impact on female adolescent and the impact on parents. The impact of early marriage on female adolescent includes: health impacts, namely the risk of complications and premature birth, psychological impacts, namely not being ready due to emotional pressure and stress, social impacts, namely being shunned by peers, economic impacts, namely not being ready to work and not having enough money to meet all needs and educational impacts, namely female adolescent dropping out of school. The impact on parents is that the age difference with their children is not far and they feel calm that their children are married.

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