



Adolescent's Perception and Severity Related to Early Marriage, in Selayar Island

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Abstract

Perception is an individual's understanding of certain concepts. In this case, adolescent perceptions are related to the individual understanding of early marriage related to the causes, effects and preparation of marriage. Early marriage is a marriage conducted by teenagers under the age of 18 through priests or community leaders who are trusted through religious affairs offices. Some things that cause marriages at an early age are marriages, teen relationships and economic conditions. This study aims to analyze perceptions related to marriage at an early age. This research is a qualitative research with phenomenology approach. Data were obtained by in-depth interviews, focus group discussions, unstructured observations and documentation on 12 informants in Bontomateme District, Selayar Islands, South Sulawesi. Domain analysis is used to facilitate semantic relations in the data found. The results show that adolescents have a negative understanding of marriage at an early age. this is because marriage at an early age will have an impact on the economy, education, social and psychology of adolescents. However, teenagers have the chance to get an arranged marriage with a parent's choice. It was agreed that adolescent knowledge and understanding of marriage at an early age was good enough. But parent's understanding and knowledge about it are still lacking. Therefore, health education for the community is needed to reducing early marriage.

Keywords: *Perception; Severity; Concept; Early Marriage; Adolescent*

Introduction

Early age marriages are marriages conducted through priests or community leaders who are approved through the KUA, where one or all of them are children under the age of 18. Girls who were married before being played 18 years smaller chance it to stay in school and who was more likely to misunderstanding in the household (UNICEF, 2005).

There are several factors that cause of early marriage. One of them is early marriage which is considered as a way out of sin due to free sex among adolescents, a biological impulse from the need for sex by having sex before marriage which aims to achieve pregnancy (Erwinsyah et al., 2018). In addition, education, socioeconomic status, cultural wisdom, and internet access help in making decisions for marriage (Sahara, 2018; Sunaryanto, 2019).

Early marriage makes a difference in aspects of life such as social, health and psychology. Low awareness of health knowledge, growth and physical development facing women who contain children at an early age greater risk of maternal health problems, disabilities and death, as well as risks for newborns (Ahmed et al., 2014).

Early marriage in rural areas More than a third is higher in urban areas (BPS, 2018). Research conducted by Jilyana, et al (2019) shows families and the environment in the Kabalutan Islands influence the decision of adolescents to get married at an early age.

Based on data from BPS, South Sulawesi has a percentage of 14.1% higher than the average percentage of early marriages in Indonesia of 11.2%. South Sulawesi Province is one of five provinces that have an average rate of early marriage (BPS, 2018).

Selayar Islands has an area of 10,503.69 km² and has a population of 134,280 people with the largest distribution at the age of 0-4 years of 13,856 people (BPS, Selayar Regency, 2019). Bontomatene sub-district as one of the most populous sub-districts in the Selayar Islands has a fairly high rate of early marriage. In the last 4 years there were 79 underage marriages and in the middle of 2019 there have been 13 underage marriages.

Based on the preliminary study, obtained data about early marriage occurs because of economic problems, children who do not continue school because they cannot afford the costs so they choose to marry so that they are no longer a burden on parents. Furthermore, because it has a culture of siri, so that his daughter is close to men immediately marry offspring. Interview with KUA Officers, 2/11/2019, 19:00 WITA, and Youth, 4/11/2019, 20.00 WITA.

The marriage system that applies for generations in Selayar has the most ideal mate selection pattern, which is choosing a prospective wife or husband in their own environment and line of ownership. The ideal match is *pindu* (cousin twice) and *pinta* (cousin three times). Their strong belief in this ideal match, so that none of the community members match the differences early on in the local language called *lapassitanraang* (Ahmadin, 2016). Based on the above considerations, the researcher wants to find out adolescent's perceptions and severity related to early marriage on the Selayar Islands.

Methodology

The type of research used is qualitative with phenomenology approach. This research was carried out on Bontomatene Sub-District, Selayar Island, South Sulawesi. The informant selection technique in this study was *purposive* based on the predetermined criteria. Informants consisted of teenagers, teen parents, health worker and family planning counselor (PLKB). Characteristics of informants are teenagers who are marriage, unmarried teenagers, parents of teenagers, community leaders are health workers and PLKB.

Data collection was obtained by conducting depth interviews, focus group interviews with each informant by asking questions in the form of interview guidelines and unstructured observation. The data analysis technique used in this study was domain analysis which is a way to find the domain of the social

situation under study. Domain analysis has 9 types of semantic relations in the form of type, space, cause-effect, rational, location, method, function, sequence and attributes. The data obtained will be grouped based on semantic relationships in the domain analysis.

Result and Discussion **Characteristics of Informant**

Table 1 Characteristics of adolescent informants

Informant Code	Gender F/M	Age (years)	Age at Married (years)	Age of the Couple (years)	Schools	Keterangan
NI	F	15	-	-	Junior high school	Unmarried
DI	F	12	-	-	Junior high school	Unmarried
AS	F	17	-	-	High school	Unmarried
TI	F	16	-	-	High school	Unmarried
AN	F	23	18	28	High school	Early marriage
KM	F	20	17	19	Junior high school	Early marriage
AM	F	19	16	22	Junior high school	Early marriage
NT	M	21	18	19	High school	Early marriage

Source: Secondary data, January-February 2020

Table 1 shows the characteristics of adolescents who became informants in this study. Teenagers consist of adolescents who get married at an early age and adolescents who are not married at an early age. Adolescents who are married at an early age are adolescents who are married under the age of 18, both completing and not completing junior high school or high school. While adolescents who are not married at an early age are still in the stage of education, whether middle or high school.

Table 2 Characteristics of health workers, PLKB (Family Planning Counselor) and teenage parents

Informant Code	Gender F/M	Age (years)	Schools	Occupation
MR	F	53	Bachelor	PLKB
JM	F	47	Diploma	Health Worker
RM	F	35	High school	House wife
SH	F	40	Junior high school	House wife

Source: Secondary Data, January-February 2020

Table 2 shows the characteristics of supporting informants consisting of parents who have teenagers, health workers and PLKB. The results in this study inform about 3 domains, impact domain, wedding preparation domain and behavioral domain.

Impact Domain

Informants are aware of the effects of marriage at an early age. informants' understanding of the impact is limited to impacts that can be seen directly, such as economic, educational and psychological. The following is the statement of the informant:

“The negative is that you drop out of school, you cannot continue your education”
(AM, 19 y.o)

“Of course we are limited in relationships, unable to control emotions so there is usually a small debate”

(NT, 21 y.o)

“Don't go to school, stay away from friends, be shy, have kids quickly too”
(DI, 12 y.o)

Health workers and PLKB reveal some of the effects of early marriage that are not yet understood by adolescents, as follows:

“That is the impact, yes, from the health aspect, for example children can be born with disabilities, then their growth is not like other children”
(MR, 53 y.o)

“Range of bleeding, internal organs are not ready for intercourse let alone give birth. This could also potentially be cancerous in the next few years. for those who are not ready to have children. There is also a disease whose term is babyblues”

(JM, 47 y.o)

Wedding Preparation Domain

“In our opinion here the right age is 20, yes 20, but actually when we talk about the age of marriage, it is good 20, we start from 20, we consider it to be ripe, if the limitation for maternity is 20-35 years, some even have the best. aged 25-30 years the age of 5 years is best for giving birth”

(JM, 47 y.o)

“If you are just any age, if you want to, then its okay, also you have work, you can get married”

(JR, 37 y.o)

“what else needs to be prepared when graduating from school, someone who comes home just accepts it. Do not make it difficult”

(SH, 40 y.o)

Based on perceptions about the effects of marriage at an early age, the informant stated that there was some preparation needed before marriage. The preparations include education, economics and mature age. This aims to avoid the negative impacts caused.

Behavioral Domain

The informant's awareness about the impact of influencing behavior beliefs in choosing to get married or not at an early age. Even so, adolescent informants said that they could not refuse marriage at an early age if it was arranged by parents.

“Just go through the will of parents, had refused but because of thinking parents have just followed it”

(AM, 19 y.o)

“Not sure yet, but see how the parents' matchmaking response and give you a year to know him before getting married”

(AN, 23 y.o)

A similar opinion expressed by PLKB regarding the cause of early marriage is arranged marriage. In addition, adolescent association also plays a role in resulting in marriage at an early age.

“Yes, in the village it is arranged marriages, maybe one of them is also because they think that slow marriage is considered unsold”

(MR, 53 y.o)

Perception is one's understanding of something which in this case is marriage at an early age. This perception consists of understanding the positive and negative effects of marriage at an early age. In theory TPB says that perception is influenced by individual behavior beliefs in controlling a situation.

The results of this study indicate that perceptions regarding early marriage in the Selayar Islands vary. Public perceptions related to early marriage vary, this is influenced by the level of education available. The higher the level of one's education, the higher the ideal age desired to get married. This is because education will provide information about the effects of early marriage (Dewi et al., 2018). Based on the domain can be seen the perception of marriage at an early age consists of impact, preparation and behavior.

The impact of early marriage is clearly felt by adolescents in the fields of education, economics and psychology and less aware of the impact biologically. Teens who get married at an early age are forced to drop out of school and do not have a job. In addition, a young age so emotional levels are still unstable in living a domestic life.

The results of this study are in line with previous research which says that early marriage results in several negative impacts both biologically and psychologically. The perceived psychological impact can be in the form of mental depression. While the biological impact that can be felt is the risk of complications during labor, death during childbirth, miscarriage and premature birth. Birth of a child at a young age can also be at risk for child development and child nutrition (Marphatia et al., 2017; Prakash et al., 2011; Kabir et al., 2019; Suhariyati et al., 2019).

To avoid the negative effects of marriage at an early age, preparation is needed before marriage. The preparations include economics, education and mature age. Parents say that marriage does not depend on age but how economic readiness.

The findings of this study are in line with what was done by Duman, et al (2017) said that the thing that must be owned by individuals before marriage is sufficient knowledge about sexuality, the ability to meet the physical and spiritual needs of children born, and pay attention to one's age at marriage.

Parents' perceptions related to early marriage are still around the preparation of traditions and habits in welcoming marriage. Most parents do not realize that preparation is far more important than the wedding celebration. Although the PLKB and related health workers have conducted socialization regarding the effects of marriage at an early age.

Adolescent perceptions related to the right time to get married and the right age also varied. Nevertheless the clearest consideration in determining when to marry is a consideration of education and

ideals. The results of this study are in line with research conducted by Sultana & Salam (2019) regarding adolescent perceptions of early marriage, the informant said that the marriage would have an impact on decision making, education, unfulfilled dreams, unwanted pregnancies and marital satisfaction. While research conducted by Subranmiam, et al (2015) shows that ages 19-24 years and 25-30 years are considered as the ideal age for marriage.

Coleman's theory reveals that adolescents have a desire to be independent in determining behavior, including in terms of the decision to marry at an early age or not. Teenagers have their own benchmarks about the preparation that must be done before marriage and benchmarks about behavior that will benefit their future lives (Sarwono, 2015).

But the results of research conducted by Suhariyati, et al (2019) said that decision making for early marriage is closely related to matchmaking. The higher the matchmaking culture, the more likely the child is married at > 18 years old. This relates to the role of the community, the higher the level of community support, then adolescents tend to decide to marry > 18 years.

Marriage at an early age has several negative effects both biologically and psychologically. The perceived psychological impact can be in the form of mental depression. While the biological impact that can be felt is the risk of complications during labor, death during childbirth, miscarriage and premature birth. Birth of a child at a young age can also be at risk for child development and child nutrition (Marphatia, 2017; Prakash, 2011; Kabir, 2019; Suhariyati, 2019). Awareness of the negative effects of early marriage on society requires an intervention.

Conclusion

Adolescent perceptions regarding early marriage vary based on the impact, preparation and chosen behavior. The impact felt by adolescents in the form of an impact on education, economic, social and psychological. Teenagers and parents still lack understanding of the biological effects of marriage at an early age. Some incidents of marriage at an early age are due to arranged marriages. This results in adolescents not being able to reject the marriage because it is the desire of parents. Based on the results of the study, health workers and PLKB are advised to increase public awareness, especially parents and adolescents, about the impact of marriages at an early age through health education so as to reduce the incidence of early marriage in the Selayar Islands.

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