



## Analysis of the Impact of Early Marriage and Influencing Factors in Trenggalek District

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### **Abstract**

The phenomenon of early marriage that occurs in Trenggalek regency occurs due to many factors that influence it. The impact of early marriage affects all aspects of community life. Moreover, Trenggalek is a regency area in East Java that is at the southernmost end with a community culture that is still strongly supported by its geographical conditions, making early marriage still difficult to overcome as a way to control the rate of population growth. The purpose of this study is to analyze the factors that influence the existence of early marriage in Trenggalek Regency so that later it is expected that the district government can formulate a policy related to early marriage in addition to minimizing the existing social impact also in order to control the rate of population growth. For this reason, field research with a qualitative descriptive research approach is considered very suitable for use in this research. The source of the data was obtained from interviews with snowball sampling techniques. From this study, it was found that the impact caused by poverty, child psychological health and health impacts. Influential factors such as culture or people's mindset, low level of education, free sex and economic factors of society.

**Keywords:** *Early Marriage; The Impact of Early Marriage; Factors Affecting Early Marriage; Trenggalek Regency*

### **Introduction**

Humans instinctively have the desire to live in pairs so that sexual desire can be fulfilled also in order to give birth to offspring so that marriage or commonly also called marriage is a way to fulfill these desires. Throughout Indonesia, especially in rural areas in the highlands, the phenomenon of early marriage is still widely found (Rifiani, 2011). Low education of parents, especially in highland areas, and lack of awareness and understanding of the concept of marriage encourage early marriage. Family economic problems also make parents unable to pay for education to a higher level and this makes parents marry their children (Adam, 2020).

In the prevailing laws and regulations in Indonesia, marriage is referred to as marriage i.e. a permanent relationship between two persons recognized as valid by the society concerned based on regulations marriage applicable. In Islam marriage itself means the inner birth bond between a man and a woman to live offspring, which is carried out according to the provisions of Islamic sharia (Santoso,

2016). In Islam there are no rules and age limits for carrying out a marriage, but Islam only recommends, if it is not able to carry out marriage then it is recommended to fast. Islam wants that the person who will perform the marriage is really capable that is, it can be seen in terms of physical, mental, emotional and spiritual.

In Indonesia, marriage is regulated in Law No. 1 of 1974 concerning marriage and amended by Law No. 16 of 2019 and there is an age limit allowed for marriage. Marriage is a contract that as a whole the aspects it contains in forming a prosperous family are very sacred, so it requires maturity of age, soul, and body for the prospective husband and wife. From this, the minimum age limit for marriage has also changed. If in Law No. 1 of 1974 which is valid until 2019, the age limit for women to marry is 16 years and men 19 years. However, since 2019 both women and men the minimum age for marriage is 19 years (Asrori, 2015). The goal is that both the future wife and the prospective husband can prepare for marriage outwardly and mentally can achieve the purpose of marriage and not divorce.

Age maturity is something that should not escape a marriage. The determination of age maturity in marriage aims for the welfare and good of the bride and groom. The maturity of the age of marriage is closely related to the problem of maturity in building a household, so that marriage at an early age is very influential in the formation of a prosperous family. Basically, marriages carried out before maturity have a negative impact and cause new problems. One of them is a husband and wife who marry at an early age prone to divorce (Alfa, 2019). In addition, it also raises poverty because they marry at an age that is still labile and immature and not even ready outwardly and mentally. Economically they are not ready to work to provide for their families. Early marriage also leads to child exploitation. Why is that, because children who should still be studying either in high school or college are forced to let go of that period and have to take care of the household as well as take care of children (Maudina, 2019).

The age limit for marriage according to health and family planning programs is above 21 years for women and above 25 years for men. The existence of this age restriction is with the aim that the bride and groom get good and fulfill the noble purpose of the marriage carried out. This instruction also in addition to suppressing early marriage can also prevent the occurrence of population explosion, so that the national family planning program can go hand in hand with reducing early marriage. The maturation of the age of marriage is also to protect the health of women. Women under the age of 20 are encouraged to postpone marriage and pregnancy. Because at that age women are still in their growth period where they are still in the process of both physical and psychological development (Syalis & Nurwati, 2020). In terms of reproductive health, the age under 20 years will result in the risk of illness and death arising during pregnancy and childbirth. This reason is tantamount to saying that there is a very serious threat to reproductive health for women during pregnancy and childbirth under the age of 20. The safety of a mother's pregnancy is also influenced by the age of the mother herself. A mother between the ages of 20 – 30 years is a good time to get pregnant, give birth and raise her child. If outside that age range, the risk that will be faced by a mother will increase.

According to BPS data from Trenggalek district, the population in 2022 is 739,668 inhabitants and increased in 2023 to 744,358 inhabitants. This number includes a high number at the East Java Province level compared to several districts in the East Java Province. The high population growth is partly due to early marriage. Although early marriage often raises domestic problems such as quarrels and clashes between husband and wife due to immature emotions and eventually leads to divorce, early marriage has not been eliminated in the Trenggalek community. For this reason, this study aims to describe and analyze the impact of early marriage and factors that influence the occurrence of early marriage in Trenggalek district.

According to research by Hisam Ahyani et al (2021) on the phenomenon of underage marriage by society 5.0 states that the factors that support Society 5.0 to carry out underage marriage include Economic Factors and Bored Factors of learning online, this is because currently in an all-digital era like

today (the era of disruption 4.0), where people called Society 5.0 are worried about their incompetence. In competing through artificial intelligence technology so that the concern of people's economic fulfillment is currently threatened (Ahyani et al., 2021). While Sri Handayani et al (2021) about Factors Causing Early Marriage in Several Indonesian Ethnicities in his research suggested that The existence of customary rules, patriarchal systems, modernization and formal laws that apply, namely marriage laws, affect the habitus of early marriage perpetrators. Weak economic, cultural and social capital also encourage individuals to engage in early marriage (Handayani et al., 2021).

## ***Literature Review***

### **Definition of Marriage**

Marriage in literature is equated with the term marriage. This refers to the use of terms in existing laws and regulations in Indonesia, namely the marriage law. Subekti means, that marriage is a legitimate relationship between a man and a woman for a long time (Retired, 2015). According to Islamic Law, marriage is a contract or agreement between a prospective husband and a prospective wife, hence it takes place through *ijab* and *qobul* or handover. When the marriage contract has been consummated, then they have promised and are willing to create a harmonious household, will live and die in living the household together (Wibisana, 2016).

In article 1 of Law Number 1 of 1974 concerning Marriage, it is explained that marriage is an inner birth bond between a man and a woman as husband and wife which aims to form a happy and peaceful family (household) based on the One and Only Godhead. Therefore, marriage is a contract whose entire aspect is contained in the word marriage and sacred ceremonial utterances (Malik, 2010). Duvall and Miller argue that marriage is a sacred bond between a man and a woman who have arrived or are considered to be of sufficient age to marry either religiously or legally (Aryani, 2021).

The purpose of marriage according to Sudarsono in Prasetyo (2018) is as a fulfillment of the demands of human character, relationships between men and women in order to create a happy family on the basis of love and affection in order to get a legitimate generation in customs whose provisions have been regulated in sharia. From some of these interpretations, it can be concluded that marriage is a relationship between a man and a woman that aims to form a family that has been legally recognized in law and religion (Prasetyo, 2018).

While Early marriage is a marriage that begins at the age of 16 years and ends at the age of 20 years, or who is still in school and categorized as young people (Adam, 2020). While the perfect marriage is a woman 20 years and over and a man 25 years and over (Primary, 2014). Early marriage is a marriage that is carried out at a very young age. Early marriage/young age has two words, namely marriage and young age. Young age explains young age, this matter can be used as a reference to do something before the age limit (Aryani, 2021).

From the above understanding, it can be concluded that early marriage is a marriage carried out by a couple or one partner is still categorized as children or adolescents under the age of 20 years. A marriage under the age of age that has not achieved its preparatory goals has not been said to be optimal in physical preparation, mental preparation, and material readiness. Because of this, the bonding of young age can be said to be a hasty marriage.

### **Impact of Early Marriage**

According to Mubasyaroh (Mubasyaroh, 2016) The impact of early marriage includes:

#### a. The Child's Education Is Interrupted

Early marriage causes children to drop out of school, this results in a low level of knowledge and access to information in children. In some cases, parents actually assume that children who marry young can be the savior of their families. In fact, early marriage in children can hinder education and self-development. So, early marriage can have an impact on losing the future, especially for the desired and the opportunity to achieve higher education.

#### b. Poverty

In early marriage couples, automatically the education is not optimal. Limited education ultimately limits access to employment for them. This is what makes the economic conditions of couples who marry early difficult to improve. The work ethic of couples who marry early is also not optimal. Because they do not have experience, nor do they have strong reasoning power to make family economic goals and achieve them by saving. So in early marriage, it is vulnerable to giving birth to poor families because of low education so that low access to work is obtained. Financial unpreparedness is vulnerable to making new families poor. Moreover, if the early marriage partner immediately gets pregnant and has children. Needs are more and more urgent, while their abilities as parents do not budge. In the end, many couples divorce due to family financial failure

#### c. Domestic Violence

Emotional maturity in early marriage couples is usually not stable. They have not been able to control their emotions when faced with a problem in their household that causes domestic violence. If violence continues to be allowed in a family, then the victim's condition related to mental and physical can be fatal both for the couple and even for their children (Fadilah, 2021)

#### d. Child Psychological Health

Mental health in early marriage couples can be disrupted. This is triggered because they are not used to taking care of themselves, unstable emotions and pressure because they have to carry out the role of parents, family financial problems and others. This condition can cause stress, depression and can even lead to suicide due to immature thoughts and still unstable.

#### e. Reproductive Health

Pregnancy at the age of less than 17 years is at risk of medical complications. Pregnancy at a very young age is in fact correlated with maternal mortality and morbidity. At the age of 15-19 years experience twice the risk of dying while pregnant or during childbirth compared to the age of 20-24 years. The pelvis that is not ready to give birth and the child's reproductive organs are not well developed make the risk of death even greater.

### **Factors Influencing Early Marriage**

Some factors that influence the existence of early marriage include:

#### a. Economic Factors

Often parents urge their children to get married immediately due to economic problems. Parents feel unable to bear their children's living and school expenses and feel that children are a burden on their economy. By marrying off children, parents assume that their responsibility for their children will shift to their husbands and children. SA lightens the burden on parents (Syarifatunisa, 2017).

## b. Education Factors

Due to low economic limitations, education is often neglected. The low level of education and knowledge of parents, children and society, causes a tendency to marry underage children (Retired, 2015). In addition, low education of children can also cause children to fall into promiscuity and even make pregnancies out of wedlock so that parents are forced to marry their children even though the age is not sufficient (Salmah, 2017).

## c. Cultural Factors and Community Mindset

The concern of parents for their daughters who have reached adolescence is considered unsalable and spinsters if they are not married is a trigger for parents, especially in rural areas, to immediately marry off their children. The mindset and culture of people who feel a sense of pride if their daughters immediately get a mate even though they are still not old enough sometimes defeat the principle of family effectiveness and efficiency in society (Saskara, 2018).

## d. Overlapping Regulatory Factors

According to Law No. 1 of 1974 concerning marriage, marriage is permitted if the male party has reached the age of 19 years while the female party is at least 16 years old. Where this law was amended into Law No. 16 of 2019 which states that the age limit for marriage for both men and women is 19 years. If you have not reached that age, you are still allowed to marry if you get permission from both parents and courts. This is clearly contrary to Law No. 23 of 2002 concerning child protection which states that the age of < 18 years is classified as a child (Muntamah et al., 2019). The law on marriage also does not support BKKBN's Generasi TPlanning program campaign in which the ideal marriage age for women is above 20 years and men is above 25 years.

## **Method**

Field research by means of qualitative research methods and descriptive approaches was used in this study. This research is used because researchers want to be able to go directly into the field and observe directly the phenomena that occur related to the impact of early marriage and factors affecting the occurrence of early marriage in Trenggalek district. The research location is in two sub-districts in Trenggalek district, namely in Pelvic sub-district and Trenggalek sub-district. Data collection in this study was carried out in natural conditions which were divided into primary data and secondary data. Primary data were obtained from interviews with informants selected by snowball sampling. The researcher at the beginning only determines two potential data sources and from both then rolls according to the reference from the potential data source. The main resource persons for this research were the heads of the Religious Affairs Office of Pelvic sub-district and Trenggalek sub-district, community leaders and perpetrators of early marriage in both sub-districts. The supporting data are documents and archives from the religious affairs office of Pelvic sub-district and Trenggalek sub-district. To facilitate in collecting research data, researchers use research instruments in the form of interview guidelines, field notes and researchers themselves who directly observe events related to the object of research. This research instrument is used for measuring tools and collecting data related to a variable in the research process. Data analysis techniques use interactive analysis techniques according to Miles and Huberman, which is the act of analyzing qualitative data to find and systematically compile all data and information obtained during interviews and other sources of information obtained from the field related to the focus of the problem. Interactive analysis techniques consist of data collection, data reduction, data presentation and finally conclusion drawing and verification.

## Results and Discussion

Conjugal harmony in the home is a form of achieving success and happiness that not all husbands and wives can obtain. By knowing the roles, functions realized through the fulfillment of the rights and obligations of husband and wife, realizing a harmonious family is not difficult (Al-Mashri, 2016). Of course to realize it is not easy, it takes patience, strong determination and full of sacrifice. Based on the results of research from field observations and interviews with resource persons in this study will explain the social impact of early marriage in Trenggalek Regency. Trenggalek Regency is an area at the southern tip of East Java where most of the area is mountainous and highland. Such a geographical location turns out to affect the culture and mindset of the people.

In this study, researchers found several negative impacts caused by early marriage. Children who undergo early marriage cannot continue their education to a higher level because they are already required to take care of the household and earn a living to meet the needs of the family. There are even those who have to drop out of school and cannot graduate because they are pregnant before marriage and have to do marriage. Although there is a package chase program from the government, most of them are lazy to follow it because they are burdened with responsibilities in the family. Actually, the interviewees were aware of the importance of education, but the desire to continue school became neglected because of the desire or compulsion to marry and was forced to focus on their home life. As a consequence, with a low level of education, the quality of families resulting from early marriage is low. Because he has not been able to manage financial problems, health and future plans for his child. The worst impact that arises is the occurrence of divorce.

Another impact caused by early marriage is poverty. Because marrying young and cutting off education makes it difficult to get a job. This young couple at the beginning of marriage has not been able to bear such a large family economic responsibility and not even a few who impose it back on their parents. The lack of work options they can choose because the low level of education makes it difficult for them to earn a living and consequently further increases the poverty rate in Trenggalek district.

Based on the results of research, early marriage has a psychological impact on the perpetrators which affects their psychological health. Difficulty making a living, psychiatric problems, inability to live independently, feeling ashamed and unappreciated, quarrels, feeling complete, feeling accepted by society and useful to the family become mental and mental pressures. Psychologically, a child does not have readiness and does not understand the meaning of a specific married relationship, so it will cause prolonged psychological trauma in the child's soul that is difficult to heal. The child will be gloomy and regret his life that ended in a marriage that he himself did not understand for his life decision. Changing status from a child to husband or wife can sometimes cause a dispute between the two and easily cause a household rift.

Not to mention, the impact of medical complications and reproductive health problems for early marriage perpetrators is also threatening. At an immature age, the reproductive organs are still in the process of maturity so they are not ready to have sex with the opposite sex, especially if they get pregnant and then give birth. If forced, there will be trauma, extensive tearing and infection that will endanger the reproductive organs to endanger the child's life (Hanum & Tukiman, 2015). Miscarriage in pregnant mothers at an early age can occur as a result of psychological as well as physical factors. Babies conceived by mothers aged 13-15 years are more prone to premature birth. This is due to the level of maturity of the mother's reproductive organs that has not been maximized (Oktavia et al., 2018). Early mothers also usually lack awareness and knowledge about the intake of nutrients needed during pregnancy. Based on the results of interviews, some informants had difficulties in giving birth due to the physical condition that was not possible and the great imbalance of the baby with pelvic width. Not to mention that the pregnancy causes problems, namely lack of blood (anemia), long labor / baby does not come out immediately, swelling at the end of pregnancy.

In addition to the impact that can be caused by early marriage, there are several factors that influence the phenomenon of early marriage still occurs in the community as well as in Trenggalek district. The still thick local culture and the mindset of the community that still upholds old thoughts based on habits and education by ancestors make early marriage still rife in the people of Trenggalek regency. There is still a matchmaking culture that binds two families where usually parents will immediately marry their children for fear that the arranged marriage bond will be loose and the child will refuse if left unmarried even though they are not married immediately. The child's sia is still insufficient. The low education from parents makes their mindset still old-fashioned, still inheriting the mindset of the old people who think that when there are children who propose even though they are still young, it is a matter of pride.

Furthermore, the economic factors of parents also cause parents to immediately marry off their children. In order for the family economy to be better, they decided to get married even though they were still young. This happens because of the situation of families living on the poverty line, to ease the burden on their parents, their daughters are married to people who are considered capable. In some cases, early marriage is associated with the interruption of women's schooling which results in women's education levels being low. Low education will harm women's economic position and low levels of women's work participation. In this study, researchers observed that early marriage perpetrators held marriages due to lack of family economics so that they could not continue their education to a higher level. Perpetrators of early marriage feel that continuing education will burden the family so that when they stop school, children who have found their partners choose to marry and this is given approval by their parents. Women think that getting married can help the family economy because the candidate already has a suitable job.

The next factor that causes early marriage is that the perpetrators have sex before marriage and eventually they become pregnant. So that parents inevitably have to immediately marry off their children to cover up the disgrace. This happens due to lack of supervision from parents. Parents trust the association of children too much. Even though currently the flow of cultural information is so large through social media that can make teenagers who at the age like to try something new and their curiosity is very large to do the free sex behavior. Based on several statements that have been put forward by the speakers, it can be decided that the factors of progress and rapid flow of social media which are often mentioned have a very large influence on the association of adolescents plus the average parent is constrained in supervising the advancement of their children's cellphone technology which may have a negative impact on the teenagers themselves.

To minimize and even prevent the occurrence of early marriage in Trenggalek district, efforts need from the local government to socialize about maturing marriage age. This effort is carried out so that the community can understand the negative impact of early marriage so that it is hoped that the community will not do early marriage again. provide continuous understanding to the community that delaying or maturing the age of marriage will affect individual readiness, especially psychological, social, and economic readiness in entering marital life which means also increasing marital stability so that marriage failure can be avoided. If early marriage can be prevented, efforts to control population rates will also be carried out.

## **Conclusion**

The impact caused by early marriage in Trenggalek district is as follows: the first impact is the impact of children's education being cut off so that the level of education becomes low, the quality of families resulting from early marriage becomes low, the second impact is poverty where economic unpreparedness adds to the heavy burden of the economy and creates a new cycle of poverty with the increase in family burden, The third impact is the psychological health of children named after living a

domestic life the problems faced are unstable emotions, this is due to immature thinking in dealing with all problems in the household. The fourth impact is the reproductive health of women who are pregnant and give birth at a young age will be very vulnerable to pregnancy complications and also psychological who are not ready to become mothers and care for their babies. Cultural factors that are still thick and the mindset of people who are still tied to the old mindset are one of the factors causing early marriage. In addition, the lack of parental education makes parents believe that it is better to marry off their children immediately because of concerns especially for girls to be considered spinsters and not sell. Where the stigma among rural communities still greatly affects social relations between them. The next factor is economic factors where due to economic factors that concern early marriage perpetrators decide to marry, factors of pregnancy out of wedlock where there are many advanced technologies that spread negative things, especially to adolescent children, the rise of promiscuity and lack of parental supervision, and self-will factor where children already love each other and are ready to marry at an early age. To prevent the increasing phenomenon of early marriage, local governments should make understanding to the community through socialization about the importance of maturing the age of marriage and also making laws and regulations that prohibit marriage at an early age.

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