

# Halal Sex Tourism in Indonesia: Understanding the Motivation of Young Female Host to Marry with Middle Eastern Male Tourists

Usep Suhud\* and Noorfie Syahri Sya'bani  
Faculty of Economics, Universitas Negeri Jakarta  
\*usepsuhud@feunj.ac.id

## Abstract

The objective of this mixed-methods study is to understand motivation of young female host to marry with Middle Eastern male tourists. The tourists, mostly from Middle Eastern countries picked female – prostitutes or ordinary women – host to be their wives for a certain period of time. This contract marriage has increased wealthy for those who are involved and therefore it is supported by community. The study took place in Southern Bogor, West Java Province, Indonesia where many cases of contract marriage found. By using projective data collection techniques the authors were allowed to gather data from the third parties. In the qualitative study, 90 female students were involved in face to face interviews. The results were adapted into a quantitative instrument. In the quantitative study, 199 female students participated in a self-administered survey. As a result, the motivation of young female host to marry with Middle Eastern male tourists includes hedonic, marriage barrier, and altruistic motivations.

**Keywords:** contract marriage, halal sex tourism, motivation, structural equation model, Indonesia

## 1. Introduction

Formerly, Saudi Arabian tourists looked for sex hit Thailand in 80-ies (Cohen & Neal, 2012). In 1989, when the relationship between these two countries were in trouble caused by a case called 'blue diamond affair', the Saudi Arabian government banned their citizens to visit Thailand (McClincy, 2012). As a result, the Saudi tourists and were followed by other tourists from the Gulf countries headed down to Indonesia (France TV English, 2011).

The tourists, individually or in groups, visited Cisarua sub-district in Bogor, the hilly places southern Jakarta, the capital of Indonesia, for holiday. They enjoyed sceneries, interacted with local people, and married with young female host for two days or more before they went back to their countries like Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and Qatar (Lestari, 2013) where they came from.

The tourists picked desired prostitutes and married them before they obtained a 'service'. The tourists and the prostitutes were involved in contract marriage or *nikah mutah*. It was possibly required by neighbourhood as Cisarua and surrounds areas were well-known as religious spots. Marriage in a certain period of time or contract marriage is very common in Muslim communities, for instance in Saudi Arabia, Iran, India, Jordan, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Tunisia, Morocco, Tunisia, and of course Indonesia (Haeri, 1992; Moghadam, 1992). However, a marriage contract practice between host and tourists may occur only in fewer places including in Cisarua.

Contract marriage between host and tourists can be considered as halal sex tourism (France TV English, 2011) which wraps sex tourism with Islamic processions. This practice happens because some Muslims believe that contract marriage is better than adultery (Shafra, 2010).

Phenomenon of practicing contract marriage in Cisarua that involves young female residents from a lower income society can be considered as a Cinderella complex, referring to a desire to obtain a wealthy life instantly (Marudut, 2009). The tourists would spend foreign currencies not just for paying their short term wives for about \$400 per week, but also for renting rooms or houses and cars, buying food, and exchanging currencies. Indeed in general, these foreign tourists gave economic benefits all member of society (Lestari, 2013). Moreover, it is allowed by Islam, the religion that followed by predominant people in the areas.

After years, when demand increased and tourism became a big business in those areas, the tourists did not just marry the prostitutes, but also ordinary female, especially the young ones. This study is aimed to understand the motivation of young female host to marry with Middle Eastern male tourists.

## 2. Motivation to marry with foreigners

Contract marriages with different settings occur in many places in Indonesia, for example, involving husbands in South Cianjur, West Java, who were abandoned by their wives for years for working overseas (Affandy, 2010); in Bitung, North Sulawesi (Takasihaeng, 1997); between Middle Eastern male tourists and local women in Cibadak Village, Cianjur, West Java (Nugraha, 2013); in Rembang and Pasuruan, East Java (Harsaputra, 2004);

and between expatriates and local women in Singkawang, West Kalimantan (Illafi, 2001).

Safitri (2013) conducted a qualitative study on motivation of three local women who were engaged in contract marriage involving foreign men, in Jepara, Central Java Province, Indonesia. According to this researcher, the motivation can be categorised into two groups – external and internal factors. For the external factors include:

- Access to conduct contract marriage is available
- Contract marriage is a common thing in society
- Get divorced
- Other family member is engaged in contract marriage

Furthermore, for the internal factors include:

- Afraid of being committed in a legal marriage
- Biological
- Economic
- Lack of understanding of religious values
- Loneliness
- Pride
- Security
- To be loved
- To fulfil daily needs.

### **3. Research methods**

This is a mixed-methods study. The authors conveniently invited university students to participate in face-to-face interviews. In total 90 students took part and filled in a semi-structured questionnaire. This qualitative stage was addressed to explore keywords relating to motivation to marry with foreign tourists. Results of the qualitative stage were adapted into a quantitative instrument.

Furthermore, the authors distributed questionnaires to high school students around Cisarua, where many contract marriage practices between young female host and foreign tourists were found. There were three reasons why the authors chose students as respondents: firstly, the authors faced difficulty to search women with contract marriage experiences. People in the locations, who were interviewed during pre-research, were silence once the authors questioned them about contract marriage and Middle Eastern tourists. Therefore, the authors used a projective data collection technique. By using the projective technique, the authors were allowed to use third parties to gather data (Donoghue, 2000; Steinman, 2008); Secondly, more and more younger host were involved in contract marriage, not just prostitute from other places who came to Cisarua, but also the local female; Thirdly, the authors planned to analysed data using structural equation model and it required big numbers of data (Hair Jr., Black, Babin, Anderson, & Tatham, 2006; Holmes-Smith, 2010).

In the quantitative stage, the authors distributed the instrument at two high schools. In total, 239 female students involved in the survey producing 199 usable questionnaires. The most cases found were: respondents filled in the questionnaire in an extreme way by choosing a certain option for each question (for example, 'agree' only or 'strongly disagree' only); respondents skipped one or two pages of the instrument randomly. These causalities occurred might be caused by lack of instruction. During the data collection, the authors had no access to participants to explain face to face and direct them how to fill in the instrument. In this case, some teachers took the role to distribute and explain it to classes. Furthermore, the data were analysed using exploratory and confirmatory factor (structural equation model) analyses.

## **4. Findings**

### **4.1. The qualitative findings**

The authors identified and documented all unique answers obtained from the qualitative study. Furthermore, all these keywords were adapted into quantitative statements to be included in the quantitative instrument. Some of the results are presented on Table 1 below.

### **4.2. The quantitative findings**

#### **4.2.1. Exploratory factor analysis**

The exploratory factor analysis produced three dimensions: Hedonism factor that has eight indicators with factor loadings ranging from 0.494 to 0.858. Cronbach's alpha score of this dimension was 0.896. The second dimension was marriage barrier which has three indicators with factor loadings ranging from 0.731 to 0.917 and Cronbach's alpha of 0.859. The last dimension was altruism factor which has five surviving indicators with factor loading ranging from 0.520 to 0.854. This last factor has Cronbach's alpha of 0.854.

Table 1-Results of exploratory factor analysis of motivation of young female host to marry with Middle Eastern male tourists

	Indicators	Factor loadings		
		1	2	3
<b>Hedonic motive</b>				
Mot5	Because friends have been involved.	0.858		
Mot6	To fulfil daily needs.	0.821		
Mot8	Need money to follow the trend.	0.771		
Mot7	To get additional income.	0.762		
Mot4	To fulfil biological needs.	0.761		
Mot9	Influenced by friends and family.	0.635		
Mot1	Need money to follow the trend in society.	0.592		
Mot10	They are handsome.	0.494		
	Cronbach's alpha	0.896		
<b>Marriage barrier motive</b>				
Mot19	The levels of faith of the women who are involved in contract marriage with foreign tourists are low.		0.917	
Mot20	The levels of education of the women who are involved in contract marriage with foreign tourists are low.		0.859	
Mot18	The women who are involved in contract marriage with foreign tourists do not think the bad impacts in long term.		0.731	
	Cronbach's alpha		0.859	
<b>Altruistic motive</b>				
Mot13	To help the family economy.			0.854
Mot14	Asked by parent.			0.812
Mot17	It has been a local culture.			0.806
Mot22	To improve offspring.			0.678
Mot16	Amazed by foreign tourists.			0.620
	Cronbach's alpha			0.854

**4.2.2. Confirmatory factor analysis**

The results of confirmatory factor analysis shows that motivation of young female host to marry with Middle Eastern male tourists consist of three dimensions (please see the figure below): the first dimension – hedonic – has five indicators; the second dimension – marriage barrier – has two indicators; and the third dimension – altruistic – has five indicators. The fitted model of this variable has probability score of 0.104, CMIN/DF of 1.254, CFI of 0.989, and RMSEA of 0.036.

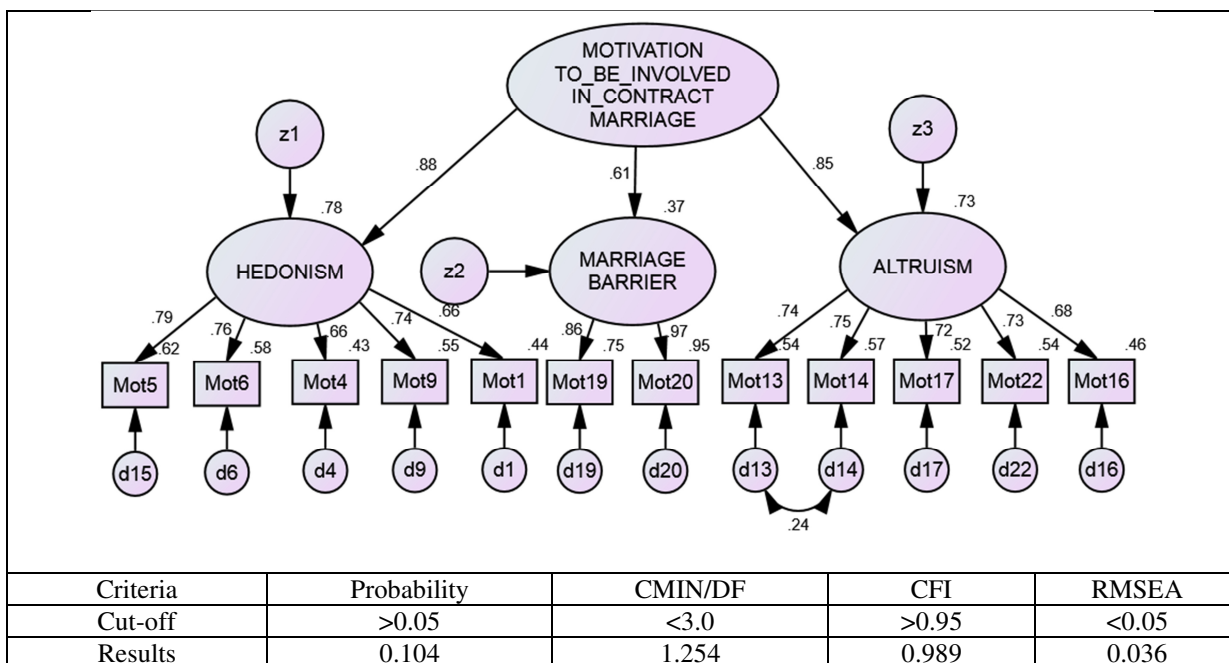


Figure 1-Results of confirmatory factor analysis of motivation of young female host to marry with Middle Eastern male tourists

## 5. Conclusion

This study carries out an innovation in tourism field, particularly on halal sex tourism as this case occurs only between host and tourists within Muslim communities. Based on the findings, female host would marry with Middle Eastern male tourists were motivated by hedonism, marriage barrier, and altruism factors. Some of these indicators overlapped with the ones found by Safitri (2013).

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