



## Analysis of Factors Causing Early Marriage for Women in Pameungpeuk Hamlet, Kadudampit District, Sukabumi Regency

### *Analisis Faktor Penyebab Pernikahan Dini Pada Perempuan di Dusun Pameungpeuk Kecamatan Kadudampit Kabupaten Sukabumi*

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#### Abstract

The problem of early marriage is one of the problems that is often found in Indonesia. However, this problem is more common in rural areas than in urban ones. Early marriage is a marriage that occurs between a pair of teenagers, both male and female, who are still not ready physically, physiologically, and psychologically. This study aims to analyze the factors that cause early marriage in Pameungpeuk Hamlet, Kadudampit District, Kabupaten Sukabumi. The method used in this research is a qualitative method with a literature study. To identify the location and informants in this study using a purposive sampling technique. Meanwhile, data collection techniques are in-depth interviews, observations, and case studies. The results of the study show that there are three (3) main factors that cause early marriage, including economic factors, educational factors, and parental factors.

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## **INTRODUCTION**

Marriage is a sacred bond between a man and a woman as husband and wife to create a peace (*sakinah*), love (*mawaddah*), blessed (*warahmah*) family. A Marriage that is carried out in the teen ages are also called early-age marriage. Because of immature readiness such as the aspects of health, mental-emotional, education, socio-economic, and reproduction makes the marriage has risks (Kemenkes, 2014)

According to Janiwarty dan Pieter (2013), a strong biological influences, which are frequently experienced by women who marry at a young age, are uterine contamination & cervical cancer. The Early-age marriage will replace normal cells into malignant cells and will ultimately have an impact on uterine infections & cancer. This is the period of cells changing from childhood to adulthood. The previous research shows most of uterine infection & cervical cancer sufferers are women who marry at an early age, which is 16 years old. Obstetrically, the under 19 years old' pregnancy is at risk of bleeding, miscarriage, premature pregnancy and molar pregnancy.

Based on the study of BKKBN in 2018, it is shown that Indonesia is one of the countries with the highest percentage of early-age marriages in the world (ranked 37th) and the second highest in ASEAN after Cambodia. The young women in Indonesia, aged 10-14, are married as much as 0.2 percent or more than 22,000 young women at that age are married. The number of young women aged 15-19 who are married is greater compared to young men aged 15-19 years (11.7% : 1.6%). More than 56.2% of women at 20-24 years old are married. It indicates that the government's role is needed to socialize the risks of early marriage (Iriani 2018).

In addition, according to the West Java statistics center, Sukabumi was in the 2nd rank for the most number of marriages with 28,336 marriages occurred in 2018. Meanwhile, there was a decline in 2020 in which Sukabumi was in the 3rd rank with 20,964 marriages. Based on the field observation, the marriages in Pameungpeuk Hamlet ranges from aged 17-19 years. Besides, the researchers found several teenagers who were pregnant and gave birth at a young age, thus giving birth to babies under the usual weight of 2,500 grams. Giving birth with less weight babies threatens some teenagers who get married earlier (Desiyanti 2015).

The early marriage can also be caused by the influence of parental coercion. Some reasons why the parents marry their children early are because they worry of their children will fall into promiscuity and have negative consequences (Mubasyaroh 2016). In addition, another factor is the parents worry if their children are labeled as unsolicited girls or

spinsters when their children are unmarried after 16 years old (Ali 2015). In essence, the role of parents in the early marriage cases are inseparable from the level of education and knowledge. The low level of education and knowledge of parents, children and the community has led to a tendency to marry off their children who are still underage (Hikmah 2019). Several consequences of the low education and knowledge are high unemployment, increased crime, and early-aged marriage. An occupancy will determine people' social and economic status, health problems and where a person lives (Guttmacher in Yunita 2014). Therefore, this study intends to inform about the crucial role of parents in making decisions to marry off their children at a young age.

What is meant is adolescents aged 10–19 years and are not married (Desiyanti 2015). Based on the Marriage Law Number 1 of 1974 article 7 states that marriage is permitted when a man is 19 years old and then a woman is 16 years old. In Law Number 10 of 1992 concerning the behavior of human generations, it states that the government must establish an action plan for implementing family planning (Setiyaningrum 2015).

The 2019 Marriage Law stipulates that the minimum age for marriage is nineteen for both men and women. Based on this Law, finally, on October 14, 2019, the President of the Republic of Indonesia issued Law Number 16 of 2019 regarding amendments to Law number 1 of 1974 concerning marriage which only contains one particular article changing the provisions of Article 7 amended so that it reads as follows:

The Marriage Law of 2019 stipulates that the minimum age of marriage is nineteen for both men and women. Based on this Law, finally on October 14, 2019, the President of the Republic of Indonesia issued Law Number 16 of 2019 regarding amendments to Law number 1 of 1974 concerning Marriage which only contained one special article, amending the provisions of Article 7 amended so that it reads as follows

1. Marriage is only permitted if the man and woman have reached the age of 19 (nineteen) years.
2. In the event of a deflection against the age requirement as referred to in paragraph (1), the parents of the man and/or the parents of the woman may request an exception from the Court using very urgent reasons accompanied by sufficient supporting evidence.
3. The dispensation gift by the Court as referred to in paragraph (two) must listen to the opinions of the 2 prospective bride and groom who will carry out the marriage.
4. The provisions regarding the condition of a person or both parents of the prospective bride and groom as referred to in Article 6 paragraph (three) and paragraph (4) also

apply to the provisions regarding requests for exceptions as referred to in paragraph (2) without prejudice to the provisions referred to in Article 6 paragraph (6).

There is an amendment to Article 7 paragraphs 2 to 4 that provides for the solution to the problem of early marriage for brides-to-be who are married under the age of 19. In this case, both the parents/guardians of the grooms-to-be and brides-to-be can request a dispensation to the court accompanied by reasons and supporting evidence related to the matter. In addition, for the Moslem communities who experience the similar problems, they can file a voluntair case or an application for a marriage exemption to the trust court in their area of residence or submit the application to the religious court where the marriage will be held. The case of early marriage not only occurs in Indonesia but also other countries (Janiwarty, Bethsaida & Pieter 2013).

In understanding the reasons of the perpetrator in committing the early marriage, we can use the theory of social action from Max Weber. This theory is oriented towards the goals and motives of the perpetrator. By using the theory, we can understand the different types of attitudes and actions carried out by individuals and groups. In addition, we can also understand and appreciate their reasons for doing these kind of actions.

Based on the background, this research is important to be conducted to know the factors causing the early-age marriage. By knowing the causes, the problems of early-age marriage in Indonesia will be reduced and parents can take preventive action to make it does not occur to their children, especially in Pameungpeuk, Kadudampit, Sukabumi. We also expect that this research can be a solution and provide benefits. Moreover, this study is different from previous studies. The research of Ida Puryanti's, 2014, entitled Overview of Young Women's Knowledge about Early Marriage in Gogol Village, Bringin District, Semarang Regency, showed that the percentage of young women who have a lack of understanding of marriage was quite large. Based on the findings of the study, it is hoped that young women will increase their knowledge about early-age marriage, especially about the adverse effects and risks and the process of pregnancy on young women who marry at an early age. The information related to various impacts or risks of early marriage can be found through newspapers, magazines, television or the internet. The relevance of the research to the previous research is it discussed about knowledge (education) as the best solution in an effort to prevent early-age marriage which still occurs today. So, the findings of the previous studies can help researchers in analyzing the data because the Marriage Law in Indonesia, in fact, indirectly legalized the people to marry at an early age.

Another research was conducted by Sari Setiawati, 2017 entitled Adolescent Perceptions of Early Marriage at SMAN 1 Banguntapan, Bantul Regency, Yogyakarta. The marriage of women under the age of 16 in Bantul Regency caused dropouts, disharmonious family life, and high divorce rates. The findings showed that preventions were carried out by increasing the role of parents and teachers, strengthening religion and conducting education about sex for adolescents. The prevention efforts were carried out by having cooperation between parents and the community as well as religious and community leaders. As the previous research that collaborated to religious and communities, this research conducted the collaboration to village government and communities in order to succeed the policy implementation. These both research were discussing about the preventing to early age marriage. This research was a case study in Pameungpeuk, Kadudampit, Sukabumi that made it different to other research. (Sugiyono 2016).

## **METHOD**

This research used qualitative approach with descriptive method. The research findings were gained based on the data on the field in which analysed and then the data was validated by going back to the field. The instruments of this research were observation, interview, and documentaty as the data complement. The researchers made observation and interview guidelines by observing the field and doing interview to the choosen interviewee. All the data collected was analysed and taken so that it was expected to get data saturation. After that, data validation test was done to see the validity of the data. Finally the data was displayed in form of description with a clear narrative related to the causes of early age marriage on the women.

## **RESEARCH FINDINGS AND DISSCUSSION**

According to Hardianti and Nurwanti (2020), marriage is an event of declaring the sacred promise of both male and female couples involving family and relatives which is carried out to achieve certain goals. Before the wedding, there are several aspects of readiness that need to be considered by the bride and groom such as emotional, reproductive, financial, educational, and so on. Based on the Marriage Law No.16 of 2019, the requirement for a person to perform a marriage is when the bride and groom are nineteen years old. This marriage age restriction is to maintain and protect the mental and reproductive health of prospective couples. Although the marriage age restriction has been determined, it is not uncommon for cases of early marriage to still be found in various

regions in Indonesia. When it discusses to early marriage, it is an underage marriage whose target of preparation has not been prepared well such as physical and mental preparation. In Indonesian Dictionary (KBBI), it defines 'Early' as early morning or premature. According to Sarlito Wirawan, he said early marriage is a name born from a very strong moral and scientific commitment, as an alternative solution (Hikmah 2019). Based on these definitions, early marriage can be defined as a marriage performed by a pair of men and women who are not yet time to marry.

The early marriages that occur in various regions and countries need to get serious attention from all parties, both families, community leaders, the government, and the local community. All parties need to move to help alleviating of early marriage to prevent the various adverse effects of early marriage. There are several impacts due to the early marriage were reproductive health problems for girls, increasing maternal and child mortality rates, having trauma, dropout and limited of job opportunities which makes the low rates of women's work participation and poverty (Kompas 2019).

Marriage is a bond of agreement between two people who live together to achieve a goal and work together in any situation until the end of life. In addition, marriage is also something that is sacred and cannot be played with, once in a lifetime, eternal until death separates. According to Khasanah (2017), the early marriage that occurs in Indonesia is caused by three motives. First, the motive for having many offsprings. This first motive, the principle of "many children has a lot of sustenance", has a close relation to the practice of early marriage because a person who marries in youth has a longer fertile period so that they are likely to give birth and have many children. Second, biological motives. The marriage that is carried out to meet biological needs is also a motive for early marriage in Indonesia. Third, economic motives. The economic motives are the main factor of the early marriage occurrence. It can be due to a societal perspective that consider the responsibility of parents towards their children has been completed when the child is married, including economic responsibility. The children's feelings of guilt, not wanting to make a trouble to their parents in terms of the financial problems are also factors of early marriage. Those three motives for performing marriage are still understandable, but considerations regarding to the at what age the marriage is performed are also important to pay attention to.

There are several aspects that need to be considered to manifest the ideal marriage. First, the biological aspect. Biological aspects include the age and physical condition of the couple who are about to get married. According to health sciences, the ideal age for women to perform marriages is 20 years old while the ideal age for men is 25 years old. Besides the

age, physical condition also needs to be considered. The good physical condition is when both partners have baligh (adult). It needs to be considered and paid attention that the reproductive organs maturity of the couple who are about to get married. For example, an under 16 years old woman has immature reproductive organs so when she gets sexual treatment, it will have a bad impact on her. Secondly, the psychological aspect. Before the wedding, psychological aspects regarding the personality and attitudes of the couple are very important to pay attention to so that a healthy marriage can be established. Third, the educational aspect. It also needs to be considered because educational background can affect the mindset of individuals in responding to various life problems. In every marriage, obstacles and challenges will inevitably be passed by the couple, therefore the level of intelligence of the couple also needs to be considered. Fourth, the religious aspect. These aspects are considered to create stability in the household. Fifth, the social aspect. There are three things that need to be considered in the social aspect such as religious background, cultural background, and couple associations. Sixth, the economic aspect. These aspects need to be considered in order to be a provision for running a life (Kiwe 2017).

The marriage itself is viewed with various types of processions according to customs, beliefs, and cultures. By the existence of various traditions and customs, Indonesia binds marriage with the Regulation in the Law of the Republic of Indonesia number 1 of 1974 which is contained in several chapters and important articles including:

1. The basis of marriage is stated in the Law on Marriage No. 1 of 1974 chapter 1 article 5.
2. Terms of marriage.
3. Rights and obligations of husband and wife are regulated by the state in the marriage Constitution chapter 5 articles 30 to 34 and others.

The phenomenon of early marriage that occurs in Pameungpeuk Hamlet is certainly caused by various factors. The factors are:

1. The Role of Parents

Parents play a major role in marital issues especially for their daughters. Sometimes parents force their children to marry without their consent. There are many reasons why parents encourage their children to marry early, one of which is the understanding of their parents' religious beliefs. Some parents consider their religious knowledge is too superficial, arguing that, early marriage can protect their children from negative behavior, regardless to other aspects or rules that have already been formalized. Moreover, the parents' education level also stimulate early marriage. According to the observations, the role of parents in early marriage greatly affects the

mentality of children, especially girls. This may be due to the hereditary mindset of parents to marry at a very young age. As for the anxiety felt until now, they married their children in the hope of avoiding promiscuity. In fact, we still find early marriage in Cikahuripan Village, especially in Pameungpeuk Hamlet.

## 2. Perceptions of Reducing Parents' Economic Burden

What is meant by custom and culture are matchmaking practices and culture that are still universal and intertwined in several regions in Indonesia (Nasution: 387). This usually happens when the woman's family comes from a low-income family. This phenomenon also applies to Pameungpeuk Hamlet. According to people familiar with this matter, one of the reasons for encouraging women to marry first is to reduce the financial burden on the family. The family economy must be observed, especially if the number of children is significant. If one of the daughters gets married, the parents want to lighten their burden because they have been transferred to the child's husband after marriage. Also, if the man comes from a family with a well-established economic situation, this can help the woman's parents cope with her financial situation. From people's analysis, marriage at a young age is not always bad because it allows impoverished families to be needy. Instead of maintaining the family's financial situation, which continues to be fragile, one family member (daughter) can marry to ease the family's financial burden (Interview 2022). Based on the results of our research, we found that some of the children of Dusun Pameungpeuk decided to get married because they wanted to reduce the burden on their families, and we found many young couples who already had their own houses and gardens. Their daily livelihood is gardening and making handicrafts, so they don't depend on their parents.

## 3. Education

Children's education plays a critical role. If a child drops out of school at the age of having to study, his time is filled with work. Then he felt independent enough that he thought he could support himself. The same goes for children who have dropped out of school and are unemployed. During their time without work, they end up doing less productive things. One of them is carrying out bonds with the opposite sex, which if out of control, can lead to pregnancies outside of marriage.

Children's education plays a very important role. If a child drops out of school, his activities are working. Then, he felt that he is quite independent and he could finance himself. Likewise, if a child is out of school unemployed, he spend his time without doing some jobs and end up by carrying out less productive things. One of them is having



relationship with a girl. When they cannot control it well, it can lead to pregnancy outside of marriage.

Researchers found several dropout children, including those who graduated from elementary, junior high, and high school/ vocational schools in Pameungpeuk Hamlet. Children who graduate from each level of education have different backgrounds, some have graduated, and some have not for some reason. In fact, there are parents who remain influencing their children's mindset not to go to high school, especially girls. Some parents give an understanding that after graduation they end up becoming housewives.

#### 4. Individual Factors

The sooner a person experiences acceptance and integrates the growth of his body into his personality, the role and sexual function are adequate (qualified) to suppress marriage at a young age (Mubasyaroh 2016). Apart from economic factors, early marriages in Pameungpeuk Hamlet are consensual. This is because the two of them already love each other, so they want to get married soon regardless of their age. There is a feeling of love because dating has been going on for a long time, and the parents' blessing feels just right.

#### 5. Mass Media

Increased exposure to sexuality in the mass media has led to the growth of tolerance towards sex among modern adolescents, to the point that adolescents use social tools as a springboard for finding companions. Exposure to sexual data from mass media (stamp and electronic) is also often pornographic and cheesy in nature, perhaps serving as a non-galvanizing reference for youth. Curious young people want to try to copy what they see or hear from the mass media. This is consistent with the findings of Dusun Pameungpeuk that the number of youths who have premarital sex is influenced by mass and electronic media communicated by informants.

Early marriage is not permissible because it violates the age limit for marriage, which stipulates that marriage must be at the age of over 20 years but carried out when under the age of 20. RI Constitution No. 1 of 1974 confirms that one may not carry out an early marriage if the bride and groom are underage.

## **CONCLUSION**

Marriage is an inner bond between a man and a woman as husband and wife to form a happy and eternal family or household based on the Belief in One Almighty God. Based on

the analysis that has been done, we can conclude that three (3) factors cause early marriage in Pameungpeuk Hamlet, Kadudampit District, Sukabumi Regency. First, the factor of the role of parents, many parents in Pameungpeuk Hamlet encourage their daughters to marry young. This is motivated by shallow thinking caused by low parental education. Second, the factor of reducing the economic burden, many girls in Pameungpeuk Hamlet reasoned that they married young because they wanted to reduce the financial burden on their families. The third is the education factor. Quite a several people in Pameungpeuk Hamlet think education does not need to be too high. This caused quite a several children in Pameungpeuk Hamlet to drop out of school. Thus many decide to work and also get married.

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