



Determinants of Early - Age Marriage in Adolescent Women

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Abstract

Kinovaro Sub-District has a high percentage early-age marriage with a percentage of Couples of Reproductive Age (CRA) under 20 years as many as 4.39%. In Doda Village, Kinovaro Sub-District is the highest number of early-age marriage of 22 people in 2015. This study aimed determine the relationship parental education level, economic status of parents, adolescent education level, adolescent knowledge, social interaction, and religion toward early-age marriage event. The study used a mixed method that combined quantitative and qualitative research. A total population of 32 respondents and sampling used total sampling technique. Statistical analysis used Chi-Square test and descriptive. The results showed that the variables had significant relationship with the early-age marriage were the economic status of parents ($p = 0.001$), adolescent education level ($p = 0.000$), and adolescent knowledge ($p = 0.026$), while the parental education level was not has a significant relationship with early-age marriage ($p = 1.000$). In ancient times, early-age marriage occurred because of matchmaking culture. But there has been a shift in early-age marriage culture, occurred the desire of adolescent women marriage (already loved each other) and avoid adultery. Based the results, it can concluded that the economic status of parents, the level education and level knowledge, already loved each other and avoid adultery becomes the determinant of early-age marriage in adolescent women in Doda Village.

Keywords: determinants; early-age marriage; adolescent women.

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1. Introduction

Marriage is a form of uniting two individuals into one common goal, a lasting happiness with a spouse. It is expected that marriage can provide positive values for individuals and their social environment. Therefore, it is necessary that the conditions stipulated in the provisions of religion and law. Ideally, marriage is done when a person is in an established state, both physically and mentally [1]. Nevertheless, there are some cases where marriage is done on unready conditions, such as underage marriage or adolescence. Early-age marriage puts long-term bad risks, reproductive age is generally achieved by 49 years, adolescent women who married and pregnant will have a chance to have large numbers of children by the end of their reproductive years and give birth to children with large numbers would risk higher maternal mortality. Pregnancy and childbirth are at much higher risk for death than age 20 and above. Not just the mother, the born child has a risk of death or high disability [2]. Indonesia is a country with a high percentage for early-age marriage is 37th, while in ASEAN, Indonesia is the second highest after Cambodia. Married women in Indonesia aged 10-14 years as many as 0.2% or more than 22,000 married adolescent women [3].

Based on the wife age group data, in 2015, the number of under 20 years couples of reproductive age in Central Sulawesi is as many as 2.32%, while in Sigi District has a percentage of 2.79% or 40,216 CRA. Kinovaro Sub-District, with a high percentage of early-age marriage from 15 sub-districts with percentages of 4.39% of total. Based on the initial survey, the most early-age marriage in 2015 is in the Doda Village as many as 22 young women aged under 21 years. There has been an abortion in young pregnant women in 2014, because they have difficulty in the process of childbirth. Early-age marriage culture has been going for a long time and is due to the low level of education and community knowledge, so they do not understand the impact that will occur [4].

2. Methodology

Research design used a combination of quantitative and qualitative methods (mixed methods). In the quantitative method used Cross Sectional design, followed by qualitative method to describe local culture values that affected early-age marriage. Research conducted in Doda Village, Kinovaro Sub-District, Sigi District, Central Sulawesi Province, Indonesia, April 25 - May 13, 2017. Sampling used total sampling where the number of samples is equal to the number of population. Population was adolescent women aged 11-24 years who have married and domiciled in the Doda Village during the year 2015-2017 as many as 32 people. Instruments used stationery and questionnaires. Sources of information for qualitative method obtained from key informants, such as traditional chairman, religious figures, and cadres. The usual informant was adolescent women who have the youngest age in marriage.

3. Results and Discussion

3.1 Correlation Characteristics and Early-Age Marriage (Quantitative Method)

Based on Table 1, the level of parental education shows that from 32 respondents, 18 respondents (64.3%) who have low parental education level having an early-age marriage and 10 respondents (35.7%) who have low level not having an early-age marriage. While 3 respondents (75.0%) who have high education level of parents having

an early-age marriage, and 1 respondent (25.0%) who have high level did not having an early-age marriage. Result of statistical test by using Chi-Square test obtained p-value = 1.000 ($p > 0.05$) hence no relation education level of parents with early-age marriage.

The economic status of parents shows that from 32 respondents, 19 respondents (86.4%) who have low economic status of parents having an early-age marriage and 3 respondents (13.6%) who have low status not having an early-age marriage. Meanwhile, 3 respondents (75.0%) who have high economic status of parents having an early-age marriage, and 1 respondent (25.0%) who have high status not having an early-age marriage. Result of statistical test by using Chi-Square test obtained p-value = 0.001 ($p < 0.05$), there is a significant relation economic status of parents with early-age marriage.

The educational level of respondents shows that from 32 respondents, 20 respondents (95.2%) who have low education level having an early-age marriage and 1 respondent (4.8%) who have low level not having an early-age marriage. While 1 respondent (9,1%) who have high education level having an early-age marriage and 10 respondents (90,9%) who have high level not having an early marriage. The result of statistical test by using Chi-Square test obtained p-value = 0.000 ($p < 0,05$), hence there is significant correlation educational level with early-age marriage. The respondent’s knowledge level shows that from 32 respondents, 14 respondents (87.5%) who have less knowledge having an early-age marriage and 2 respondents (12.5%) who have less level not having an early-age marriage. While 7 respondents (43.8%) have good level having early marriage, and 9 respondents (56.2%) who have good level not having early marriage. Result of statistical test by using Chi-Square test obtained p-value = 0.023 ($p < 0.05$) hence there is significant correlation level of knowledge respondent with early-age marriage. More results can be seen in Table 1.

Table 1: Correlation Characteristics and Early-Age Marriage

Characteristics	Early-Age Marriage		Not Early-Age Marriage		Total		p-value
	n	%	n	%	n	%	
Parental Education Level							
Low	18	64.3	10	35.7	28	100.0	1.000
High	3	75.0	1	25.0	4	100.0	
Parental Economic Status							
Low	19	86.4	3	13.6	22	100.0	0.001*
High	2	20.0	8	80.0	10	100.0	
Education Level							
Low	20	95.2	1	4.8	21	100.0	0.000*
High	1	9.1	10	90.9	11	100.0	
Knowledge Level							
Less	14	87.5	2	12.5	16	100.0	0.023*
Good	7	43.8	9	56.2	16	100.0	

*significant with $p < 0.05$

3.2 Correlation of Social Interaction, Religion and Early-Age Marriage (Qualitative Method)

The results of interviews to informants who conducted early-age marriage, the main reasons they married early. All informants expressed the main reason for married at a young age because of their own desires (because of love), as revealed by informants LLN, RT, F, EC, FR, FT, and IN as follows :

"I married, parents have given blessing. I married my boyfriend and I'm out of school anymore."

"Yes, it's okay, I have asked my mother to marry, rather than I commit adultery"

"My sister married at 17 years, my neighbor also, RS in that house too." (While she pointed to a house)

"Most girls here married at the age of 17 years."

"Yes, still. Usually, girls aged 16 to 17 have dropped out of school, they only go to grade 2 junior high school, parents have felt compelled and surrender. Daughter of Mr. B has been class 2 junior high, he has hit repeatedly by parents but do not want to obey his parents. He still likes to go out at night."

"They married with own choice. Out of the night with the men, even though they hit repeatedly by the parents, they did not heed."

Informant MRO stated that parents approve an early-age marriage to their children to avoid adultery. According with the following statement:

"I do not know about it. To my knowledge, they love dating. Something like that. I am the leader of my children, so I conclude that they are better married early so avoid negative perceptions of society. In addition, early-age marriage can avoid adultery."

"We can not control a 15-year-old daughter. If she is pregnant, we can not do anything. Although the government prohibits early-age marriage, but that's what called a mate (destiny)."

"They have forbidden but they do not heed. Whereas there has been a prohibition from midwives, from the government, including the village chief"

"Here, (early-age marriage) has reduced. In ancient times, marriage was very frequent, but now even though an adult man wants to marry a young girl, the young girl does not want to."

"*Aih*, I do not know about it. (They married early) usually because of dating and avoiding adultery, that's all."

3.3 Correlation of Parental Education Level and Early-Age Marriage

The result of Chi-Square analysis shows that no correlation between parental education level and early-age marriage with $p = 1,000$ ($p > 0.05$). This indicates that the level of parental education is not a factor associated

with early-age marriage in Doda Village because both respondents and non-respondents, most have low-educated parents. Parental education level can not guarantee a person not to married early, because although parents both educated low or high there are other factors that can affect adolescent women to married early [5].

The results of this study are in line with previous research [6] where statistically proven no relationship between mother education level with early-age of marriage. In this case the mother's education does not determine the respondent will or does not do marriage in early age [7] probably because high parental education does not guarantee the knowledge of reproductive health in adolescent women [8].

3.4 Correlation of Parental Economic Status and Early-Age Marriage

Early-age marriage commonly found in poorer or rural areas. Parents try to meet the needs of their families, so they encourage their children to go to school rarely. The low economic status of the family resulted in them not being able to send their children to school. These conditions make the child feel sorry for the parents and are reluctant to continue their studies so decided to married early [9].

Based the results analysis shows a relationship between the economic status of parents with early-age marriage with $p = 0.001$ ($p < 0.05$). The income level relates to one's economic status. The higher income, the greater chance someone to become rich. Conversely, the lower income a person has, the lower chance someone gets to become rich and the greater the chance someone has a low economic level. Most of the livelihoods of Doda Village are farming pineapple. As for farming, people also do small business at home (small shop).

The results of this study are in line with previous research [10] in poor families, parents do not have the resources to send their daughter to school. Parents choose to marry off their daughter as early as possible and released from responsibility. Early-age marriage also occurs in families who have low income, so by marrying their children expected to increase family income [11].

3.5 Correlation of Education Level of Respondents and Early-Age Marriage

The educational background is the length of education a person takes. Human quality formed through the education process. Educational background is a stage continuing education determined based the level of learners development, goals to achieved, and the ability to developed [12].

Based on Chi-Square analysis results found that a relationship education level with early-age marriage with p -value = 0,000 ($p < 0.05$). It shows that education is a factor associated with early-age marriage. The low level of education makes adolescent women unaware of the various negative effects of early-age marriage. Thus they married without having enough stock on the impact on reproductive health because on average they are only elementary school graduates [13].

This study is in line with research that says girls have no way of achieving higher education. Low education girls do not know their rights and responsibilities. That ignorance, parents marry off their daughters in their daughters [14]. Education may affect a person to delay someone's marriage. The longer a person attends

education, theoretically the higher someone first marriage age. A person who graduated senior high school means that they least married aged 16 years and above, when senior high level marriage means least 19 years and if married after attends college means married least 22 years [12].

Education also greatly contributes to one's decision to make an early marriage, this is in line with the research undertaken by [15] who found that adolescents with low levels of education tend to have free sex that leads to early-age pregnancy and marriage.

3.6 Correlation of Knowledge Level of Respondents and Early-Age Marriage

Knowledge is the result of knowing from humans who answer the question "what" happens after people make sensations to a particular object. Sensation occurs through the five senses of sight, hearing, smell, taste and touch that influenced by the eyes and ears [16].

Based the analysis shows a relationship knowledge with early-age marriage with p-value = 0.023 ($p < 0.05$). This shows that the higher knowledge of a person the less likely to married early. This study is in line with research [6] which based analysis results obtained significance level $p = 0.001$ ($p < 0.05$) which statistically proved the relationship knowledge of respondents with early-age marriage. Correspondingly well with the research [17] which based the results found a relationship the low level knowledge respondents with the incidence of early-age marriage with p-value = 0,000 ($p < 0.05$).

The results prove that a person's knowledge closely related to the occurrence of early-age marriage. In this case it hoped that the relevant agencies in Kinovaro Sub-District that health workers can provide health information of healthy reproduction. Providing information can be through counseling at Secondary Community Health Centers, distributing pamphlets, brochures and others. Good knowledge will make adolescents decide not to do early marriage because they focus to realize the ideals and a better life [18].

3.7 Correlation of Social Interaction, Religion and Early-Age Marriage

Early-age marriage culture is a hereditary behavior that adolescents learn from the environment which they live. It refers to early-age marriage behavior that influenced by the surrounding environment. The environment influence is the values existence and norms that developed in the community related to their existence and the concept of marriage [19].

Early-age marriage in Doda Village has been going for a long time and has passed generations, as informants have expressed that most of the brothers and parents of informants also have early-age marriages. It's just the differences in reasons for early-age marriage that occurred in the past and present. The Early-age marriage many occurred in the past because the matchmaking culture development, but now the adolescents women decide to marry early because of selfish desires and already loved each other. Their parents will give blessings if they are willing to marry with the consideration that adolescent women just wandering and dating and will cause adultery. This can lead negative perceptions in the community, so it is better to marry off their daughters to avoid the things that not desirable [4].

Similarly, based the previous results that the reason many adolescents who decide to married early because they want to married soon. Reason they married because of love only without thinking the needs after marriage [1]

4. Conclusions

The economic status and level of education of parents and knowledge level of adolescents, already loved each other and want to avoid adultery is the determinant of early-age marriage. Therefore, the need to improved Information and Education Communication (IEC) reproductive health for adolescents, the ideal age of marriage and the impact of early marriage

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