





The Phenomenon of Early Marriage and Its Implications on Economic and Social Conditions

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Abstract. Early marriage is a phenomenon that continues to occur in Indonesia, both in urban and rural areas. The latest data shows that Indonesia is ranked 7th in the world and 2nd in Southeast Asia as the country with the highest number of early marriages. In 2019, based on the results of SUSENAS, the rate of early marriage in Indonesia has begun to decline, but is still at a high level at 22.82%. Based on information submitted by the Coordinating Ministry for Human Development and Culture, the provinces of East Java, Central Java and West Java with large populations have high rates of early marriage. This research was carried out using the literature review method. The purpose of this study is to describe how the phenomenon of early marriage is viewed from three main perspectives, namely educational level, labor force participation, and health. Early marriage limits women's access to education affecting their work openings and work prerequisites. Early marriage reduces labor constraint support by expanding the obstructions to work caused by ripeness and women's regenerative parts, which are associated with age, to begin with marriage. Young brides face greater rates of lack of healthy sustenance, segregation, and discouragement, leading to expanded hazards of maternal mortality and horribleness, especially due to IPV. This causes a significant financial burden for both the girls and their families. The study of early marriage is important because it is related to the achievement of the 5th goal of SDGs, namely gender equality and women's empowerment.

Keywords: early marriage, educational attainment, labor force participation, health

1 Introduction

Early marriage is a serious problem that is still experienced by the majority of countries in the world. Early marriage must be dispensed with as an exertion to realize the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's). Early marriage could be a human rights infringement that limits a girl's fundamental rights to instruction, non-discrimination, education, well-being and to live a life free of savagery and abuse [1]. The latest data shows that Indonesia positioned seventh in the world and second in Southeast Asia as the country with the biggest number of early marriage. Based on information provided by

the Coordinating Ministry for Human Development and Culture, the provinces of East Java, Central Java, and West Java with large populations have high rates of early marriage.

Early marriage could be a far-reaching infringement of human rights. It obstructs social and monetary enhancement, and it is built up in sexual orientation disparity. Early marriage is characterized as any legitimate or standard union including a boy or young lady under the age of 18 [2]. This means the age as required by Marriage Law Number 16 of 2019. The law has remembered a change for the base period of marriage from 16 years for ladies to 19 years. This of course must be of particular concern to the relevant policy makers. Early marriage is characterized as any marriage of people younger than 18, where the female accomplice is physically, physiologically, and mentally not yet prepared to take care of her marriage and to deliver birth to a child [3].

Sexual orientation imbalance and the conviction that young ladies are some way or another less able than young men lead to early marriage (Girls Not Brides, 2018). Girls are more bound to be exposed to orientation-based savagery and sexually transmitted infection (STIs) as a result of early marriage, which forces them to have children while they are still young, abruptly ends their education, and reduces their chances of entering paid work [4]. In East Java, cases of early marriage occur in both rural and urban areas. One of the urban areas that still has a high rate of early marriage is Malang Regency.

Based on the records of the Malang Regency Religious Court in 2018-2020, the number of early marriages proceeded to increment and the pinnacle was in 2020. In 2021 the quantity of early marriages started to decline, but this still caused Malang Regency the main situation with the most noteworthy instances of early marriage in East Java. According to the KPUK Women and Politics Expert Team in an interview with Kompas, the driving factors for early marriage are low levels of education and economy, and pregnancy outside of marriage. Meanwhile, according to the Head of DP3A Malang District, the main problem of the high rate of early marriage in Malang District is in remote communities which are influenced by economic, cultural, and educational factors. Other factors for the high rate of early marriage according to the Public Relations Officer of PA Malang District are the lack of public understanding of the changes in the revised law regarding the minimum age for marriage, the community's assumption that marriage is a solution if someone is unable to continue their education. According to the ministry of women's and children's empowerment, early marriage during the covid-19 pandemic has increased. Children are those under the age of 18 and are generally students. However, findings from the PPN/Bappenas ministry show that 400 to 500 girls between the ages of 10 and 17 are at risk of child marriage due to covid-19 pandemic.

The high rate of early marriage in East Java suggests that there should be serious efforts in handling the phenomenon of early marriage. This is because early marriage can cause latent problems. The impact of early marriage is not only linked to girls' lack of emotional preparation for the challenges of marriage, but also restricts their employment opportunities and limits their ability to develop their future economy [5]. Then, the existence of early marriage also has a social impact, related to the flourishing of a patriarchal culture that tends to place women as sexual objects. This study aims to describe how the phenomenon of early marriage is viewed from 3 main aspects, namely educational attainment, labor force participation, and health.

2 Literature Review

Early marriage in Islam according to some scholars is allowed to maintain religious norms, namely avoiding adultery and promiscuity. In Indonesia, the phenomenon of early marriage is closely linked to social, cultural, and religious norms which are more inclined to be interpreted as a social obligation than a manifestation of the free will of each individual. From the point of view of psychology, sociology, and Islamic law, early marriage is categorized into genuine early marriage which is purely to avoid sin without merely covering up adultery. And there is a fake early marriage that intends to cover up the adultery committed by the bride and groom and the pregnancy.

Early marriage can occur due to poor economic conditions and socio-cultural factors that are closely related to inequality and injustice in gender relations that develop in society. The implications of early marriage are biologically, immature reproductive organs that are not ready for sexual intercourse until pregnancy and childbirth, which can have a dangerous impact on the mother and baby and can trigger diseases in the female reproductive organs. Psychologically, children who have not yet reached the age of legal majority, don't have satisfactory preparation and understanding of sex, so that it can cause prolonged psychological injury within the child's soul which is troublesome to mend. Sociologically, socio-cultural factors in a patriarchal society that are sexual oriented one-sides and opposite to Islamic lessons that respect women, can trigger and lead to violence against women. Sexually, early marriage can have implications for pedophilia, which is clearly an illegal act packaged in marriage as if it were legal.

Based on research conducted in Pandan Madura Village, several causes of early marriage were found, namely the low level of education that affects the mindset in understanding the nature and purpose of marriage, parents who are afraid of their children becoming old virgins, economic factors, environmental factors, and the desire to realize kinship ties. The negative implications arising from early marriage for married couples include quarrels and domestic disputes, which often lead to divorce [6].

Early marriage in women is mostly found in lower-class communities, although it is also found in upper-class economic communities. Women who marry at an early age without maturity and lack of skills will have an impact and cause problems. Women who marry at the age of less than 16 years and have children will have impacts, such as on their reproductive health. Getting to be a parent at an early age went with a need to care for and take care of children as adults in general will affect the wrong parenting and will risk developmental delays, behavioral mismatches, and tend to become a culture so that the child becomes a parent at an early age. Early marriage in women is caused by several factors from various sides. Among them are cultural factors and customs in the local environment, parental factors, economic factors, education and factors from/ within the individual himself [7].

For teenagers, the COVID-19 pandemic that causes restrictions on activities certainly has an impact on mental stress. Those who usually do a lot of activities outside the home are forced to do it at home. This condition has an impact on emotional and behavioral problems or their mental health. The Kepahiang Regency government's policy to prevent early marriage during the COVID-19 pandemic is implemented by several agencies as stakeholders in accordance with their duties and functions. Efforts to prevent the practice of early marriage during the COVID 19 pandemic have not been optimal. In 2019 the incidence of early marriage was 15.9% and increased to 44.9% in

2021 or an increase of 29%. a Government policy in strengthening laws and policies in the protection of children and women is the issuance of Kepahiang Regency Regional Regulation Number 4 of 2019 concerning Kepahiang Child Friendly is to ensure that children's right is upheld so that they can live, grow, create, and take an interest in the realization of quality children with respectable character and thriving. Efforts to prevent early marriage have been carried out by the Sukolilo KUA through the implementation of a policy of limiting the minimum age of marriage, including by expressly rejecting marriage application files that do not meet the minimum marriage requirements [8].

Early marriages include marriages where the future couple is still below the age limit because the future couple is still of school age. The factors for early marriage vary greatly, among which according to the author are due to economic factors, due to arranged marriage, wanting to perpetuate the relationship, and due to factors that are actually undesirable, namely MBA got married by accident. In this case, because the woman became pregnant out of wedlock, the man and the woman are forced to marry young. The effect for teens who do early marriage is teenagers who are pregnant and giving birth, which is one of the reasons why maternal and infant mortality is high. They will also be less likely to interact with their peers and have fewer employment opportunities, which will keep them poorer [9].

Early marriage, which is rampant during this pandemic, certainly has many factors, both internal and external factors and also the impact caused by the high rate of early marriage. In the increase in filings at the Malang District Religious Court from January to August 2020, there were 1,121 cases filed. Of the number of cases that occurred in 2020, the most submissions occurred in July, which reached 237 cases. This figure when compared to case filings in 2019 has certainly experienced a significant increase. The same thing also happened in the Religious Court of Malang city which also experienced an increase in early marriage filings. Where case submissions in January-July 2020 amounted to 140 cases and all of these cases were approved. And when compared to cases in 2019, early marriage cases in the Malang City Religious Court only amounted to 47 cases. The treatment of the widespread early marriage in Malang Raya during the pandemic is to forestall early separation by giving early courses to forthcoming wedded couples, especially emotional care, so that marriages do not break up easily, even if they have problems. The factor that causes early marriage in Malang is pregnancy outside of marriage is the main cause of early marriage 50% of isbath nikah cases are caused by adultery which causes pregnancy before legal marriage both religiously and state [10].

3 Research Method

This study uses a qualitative method that research and interprets results to discover meaningful patterns that explain specific phenomena. Data collected was carried out using literature review, namely collecting data by searching for literature and reconstructing it from various sources such as books, journals, and existing research. When the aim is to gain an overview of a particular topic or research problem, a literature review is useful. In order to assess the current state of knowledge on a particular topic,

this type of literature review is usually carried out. It can be used for example, to make research plans, to find gaps in research, or simply to talk about a topic [11].

4 Result

4.1 Educational Attainment

Early marriage for girls will disrupt their education. In general, by marrying at a child's age, the formal education path will be interrupted, so they cannot improve their quality, both knowledge and skills. In fact, they will enter the productive age and labor force, which is expected to help the family economy.

In addition, they will also be cut off from social networks, due to the fact that the younger married girls are, the lower their level of education. Research conducted by Field and Ambrus (2008) and Nguyen and Wodon (2015a) concluded that each year of early marriage under the age of 18 can result in a 4-6 percent decrease in their likelihood of completing secondary school, with a very low impact on their literacy levels in some cases.

Reduced educational attainment of girls will result in reduced productivity levels and even income levels. The loss of learning opportunities will certainly result in limited opportunities and prospects for obtaining decent work. It will also prevent girls from acquiring useful skills [12] or vocational training [13]. Missing out on learning opportunities will limit girls' employment prospects and capacity to enter the conventional formal labor sector, influencing their lifetime acquiring potential. In addition, households with lower levels education are likely to cut back on investments that benefit economy. As well as denying girls a voice and a vote, and reducing their learning and income potential in the longer term, not having a formal education, nutrition and physical health of their offspring.

4.2 Labor Force

Early marriage can influence women's labor force participation rates through decreased expected benefits from support in work because of lower instructive accomplishment. The reduction in labor force participation will not only have a long-term impact on women and their families but will also have an impact at the aggregate level as it will significantly reduce economic growth. As mentioned in the previous section, early reduces children's educational opportunity, which has an effect on their employment opportunities as well as the nature and requirements of their jobs. In addition, because fertility and women's reproductive roles are strongly correlated with age at first marriage, early marriage significantly raises employment barriers, which can hurt labor force participation.

As discussed below, early marriage is linked to premature birth, short birth spans, and more children. Enormous family size and women's positions as fundamental watchmen for their children emerge as antagonistically influencing labor force support decisions, particularly where there are no or limited childcare decisions. As these obstacles are particularly felt in the early stages of marriage and family development, early marriage postpones children's chances of entering the labor market, reduces the potential

for career development and diminishes the seriousness of the business sector., as these hindrances are especially felt in the beginning phases of marriage and family arrangement. Furthermore, traditional gender norms associated with early marriage and low formal employment participation make it costlier for women and their households to remain out of work. This further reduces women's opportunities to participate.

4.3 Health

Girl's mental and physical well-being can be harmed by early marriage. Young ladies who wed youthful experience higher paces of unhealthiness, detachment, and gloom (Le Strat, Dubertret, & Le Foll 2011; Nour 2009), as well as higher rates of maternal mortality and morbidity than girls who marry after age 18, due in part to IPV (Campbell 2002; Carbone-Lopez 2006). In the short term, these health impacts result in high costs for girls and their families. In the long term, this will bring about diminished family pay and decreased efficiency. Her children suffer from intergenerational effects, including increased rates of infant mortality and poor physical health and nutritional status.

5 Conclusion

Early marriage remains a significant concern in Indonesia, although the situation has been improving over the years. Its importance as an issue today can be understood from several perspectives: human right violation, gender inequality, education, health, legal framework, cultural factors, poverty, advocacy and awareness. In conclusion, early marriage remains an important issue in Indonesia do to its impact on human rights, gender inequality, education, health and overall development. While there have been positive steps taken to address this issue, there is still work to be done to fully eliminate early marriage and protect the rights and well-being of children in the country.

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