



Empowering Young Mother Who Engage in Child Marriage: An Information Literacy to Enhance Parenting Self Efficacy

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Abstract. *The prevalence of child marriage in Indonesia varies across the country, some of it are related to the sexual exploitation. Hence, several studies suggest that family's expenditure level is expected to predict child marriage. Families with lower expenditure are prone and often marry off girls as a way to lessen the economic burden of the family. Regardless of the factors, child marriage has serious consequences, particularly for young mother. In this case, young mothers are forced to raise children within the circumstances that are not in accordance with their developmental tasks. This study explores whether psychological factors including extraversion, social support and information literacy, as well as demographical factors influence the young mother's parenting self-efficacy particularly those who engage in child marriage. The participants were 52 young mother engage in child marriage in Indramayu, Indonesia, aged between 16 and 23 years, to whom the self-reported questionnaire consists of parenting self-efficacy, extraversion, information literacy, social support, as well as a set of demographical factors were applied. The results reveal that psychological factors have a significant influence on the parenting self-efficacy of young mothers who engage in child marriage, information literacy was identified as the most significant factor influencing parenting self efficacy.*

Keywords: *parenting self efficacy, young mother, child marriage, psychology, poverty.*

1. Introduction

Child marriage in Indonesia is a complex problem that is influenced by a various factors, including socioeconomic factors. Although the prevalence rate has decreased, this practice is still high in some areas. The perception that child marriage can overcome family economic problems is one of the main triggers. In fact, child marriage is actually at high risk to various aspects such as health aspects, psychological aspects, and social aspects. To overcome this problem, comprehensive efforts involving the government, the community, and all stakeholders are needed [1].

The practice of child marriage is related to the fact that child marriage violates children's human rights, limiting their options and opportunities. Every child has the right to survival, growth and development and the right to protection from violence and discrimination as mandated in the Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia in 1945 [2]. In Indonesia, guarantees for children's rights are enshrined in the 1945 Constitution which states that every child has the right to survival, growth, and development and the right to protection from violence and discrimination. The guarantee of children's rights was then reaffirmed through the issuance of Law 23/2002 on Child Protection – which has now been amended to Law 35/2014 on Child Protection – which defines a child as someone who is not yet 18 years old. (1945 Constitution) [3].

According to the absolute number of child marriage incidences, West Java, East Java and Central Java are the 3 provinces with the highest. Indramayu Regency as one of the districts in West Java is an area with a high rate of child marriage [4]. In 2020, there were 274 cases of child marriage, in 2021 there were 236 cases of child marriage that occurred, then in 2022 the number of child marriage cases increased to 440 cases. The high number of child marriage cases has an impact on the quality of human resources in Indramayu.

According to data from BPS in 2023, the human development index (HDI) figure of Indramayu Regency is below the average of HDI in West Java [5].

Marriage that occurs at a young age or age is quite dangerous for women, men, or children who will be born later. In addition, child marriage also has a negative impact on various aspects ranging from health, physical and mental health [6]. There are many problems that arise due to child marriage. For mothers, child marriage can result in pregnancy and premature birth, the risk of experiencing reproductive problems, maternal death, loss of opportunities to continue education, loss of opportunities to get a job, and the risk of experiencing domestic violence. Meanwhile, for babies born to mothers who marry early, it can result in premature birth, stunting or malnutrition, death before the age of 1 year, and susceptibility to the wrong parenting style [7].

In addition to having an impact on the child who is married, child marriage also has an impact on the child who will be born in the future. Furthermore, child marriage also has the potential to cause intergenerational poverty [8]. Furthermore, the World Health Organization (WHO) explained that young women who are married at the age of 15-19 are usually unable to cooperate with their husbands, are less competent in making decisions for their families, and are less able to protect their mental health. In addition, it was also found that there was a strong correlation between child marriage and divorce [9].

Mothers under the age of 20 are still cognitively incompetent in terms of taking on parental roles and knowledge of the child's developmental stage [10]. In addition, adolescent mothers tend to highlight their youthful traits more than their maternal traits, when compared to psychologically mature mothers who will be more controlled by their emotions and actions [11]. During the parenting process, parents are the most important factor for a child's growth [12]. One of the competencies that parents need to have is parenting self-efficacy [13]. Parenting self efficacy is a parent's assessment of their competence or ability to carry out their role as parents to positively influence children's behavior and growth. Parents who have strong confidence in their ability to care for their children have more positive emotional well-being, better attachment to their children, and have a better role as parents [14]. Mothers who have high self-confidence or high parenting self-efficacy have better abilities in carrying out their responsibilities as parents, more responsive in responding to every sign and need of their child in the process of growth and development [15].

Based on the explanation that has been explained in this study, the hypothesis that can be developed in this study is whether there is an influence of extraversion, information literacy, and social support on parenting self-efficacy in young mothers who engaged in child marriage in Indramayu?

2. Literature Review

Parenting self-efficacy refers to a parent's belief or confidence in their ability to successfully carry out parenting tasks [16]. Parenting self-efficacy is an evaluation or belief about an individual's ability to manage and positively perform a set of tasks related to parenting [17]. The definition of parenting self-efficacy most suitable for this study is an individual's belief in their own competence in fulfilling the parental role to carry out tasks related to child-rearing that will positively influence their children's behavior and development.

Extraversion refers to the tendency to experience positive emotions, to be active, to need stimulation, to seek social interaction, to be cheerful, and to be warm [18]. Furthermore, extraversion is defined as a personality characterized by several traits such as being sociable, seeking excitement, and positive affect [19]. Extraversion has also been found to be associated with greater positive affect stability (e.g., pleasant mood or positive outlook). Extraversion describes an individual's level of comfort with interpersonal relationships with others. Extraversion includes traits such as sociability, positive emotions, and assertiveness, so individuals who score high on this dimension tend to be enthusiastic, energetic, friendly, and dominant.

Information literacy is the knowledge and skills possessed by an individual to generate valuable information obtained from various sources, create information as needed, and apply that information source in their life [20]. This information literacy ability allows a person to recognize information needs and required information, identify and find the needed information, critically evaluate information, organize and integrate information with existing knowledge, and use and communicate information effectively, legally, and ethically [21]. The definition of information literacy most suitable for this study is the ability and knowledge possessed by an individual to find, identify, analyze, evaluate, organize, integrate, use, and communicate information effectively, legally, and ethically. Social support is a social resource that an individual perceives to be available or that is actually provided to them by people or their environment [22].

Social support refers to the way people interpret information, affective comfort, and general assistance (through actions and words) offered by others [23]. Ultimately, social support is a reflection of the relational transactions that occur between people [24]. It involves interpersonal exchanges where the social support provider helps the recipient in managing challenges and uncertainties associated with a particular situation [25]. The appropriate definition of social support in this study is a resource perceived to be available to the individual, provided by others in the form of assistance, resource exchange, comfort, and attention so that the individual feels valued, loved, cared for, and appreciated.

Child marriage is defined as marriage that occurs before a child reaches maturity, before a child is physically, physiologically, and psychologically mature enough to be responsible for marriage and the children resulting from such marriage [26]. According to the World Health Organization (WHO) [27], child marriage or early marriage is a marriage where either or both partners are still categorized as children or adolescents. In line with this definition, the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection states that child marriage refers to marriage performed by children aged 19 or under [28]. Therefore, it can be said that an individual engages in child marriage if they marry before the age of 19.

3. Methodology

In accordance with the purpose of the study, which is to examine the influence of extraversion, information literacy, and social support on parenting self-efficacy in young mothers who engage in child marriage driven by economic factors. The researcher uses quantitative research methods. The population of this study is young mothers who are engaged in child marriage, while the sampling technique uses purposive sampling where the researcher establishes several special criteria that are in accordance with the research objectives. The criteria in this study are young mothers who are engaged in child marriage with an age range of 17 - 23 years, married for economic reasons, have at least one child, and domicile in Indramayu Regency. The number of young mothers who engaged in child marriage in this study amounted to 52 people.

The collected data was then processed using multiple regression analysis with the help of statistical testing software. Before conducting simple regression analysis, assumption tests were conducted first, such as item discrimination index test, instrument reliability test, and normality test. The results of these assumption tests will show whether the research instrument is reliable and whether the research data is normal or not

4. Findings and Discussions

Based on the hypothesis test results in Table 1, the significance coefficient value for the extraversion was .255 ($p > .05$) with $\beta = -.109$. Then, the significance coefficient value for the information literacy was .000 ($p < .05$) with $\beta = .451$. Then the significance coefficient value for the social support was .000 ($p < .05$) with $\beta = .500$. This indicates that information literacy and social support significantly influence parenting self-efficacy among young

mothers who engaged in child marriage. Meanwhile, the extraversion has no significant effect on parenting self-efficacy among young mothers who engaged in child marriage.

Table 1. Coefficient Regression Extraversion , Literacy Information , and Support Social on Parenting Self Efficacy

Variable	Std. Coefficients Beta	Sig.	Information
Extraversion with Parenting self-efficacy	-.109	,225	No effect
Literacy Information with Parenting self-efficacy	,451	,000	Influential
Support Social with Parenting self-efficacy	,500	,000	Influential

This research shows that information literacy is the strongest predictor that influences parenting self-efficacy among young mothers who underwent child marriage. This is in line with previous research conducted by Azami and Delkhosh [29] which stated that an individual's information literacy can increase the individual's self-efficacy, including self-efficacy in learning or performing certain tasks.

Information literacy can enable parents to access and evaluate information related to child rearing, which has the potential to increase their self-confidence in parenting. By being able to access and evaluate information, parents will feel more confident in their ability to make decisions about child-rearing practices. Information literacy also allows parents to better understand child development and the factors that influence it. By having a better understanding of child development, parents can feel more confident in their ability to support their child's growth and development, which can increase their self-efficacy [30].

Furthermore, information literacy is also related to the ability to access and utilize information and communication technology, where the ability to utilize information and communication technology enables individuals to access various knowledge needed related to child-rearing [31]. For young mothers who marry early, this skill is certainly very beneficial, because in raising their children they need information, knowledge, guidance, and direction, which will be easier to obtain when they are literate in information and communication technology.

Another factor that plays a role in parenting self-efficacy in this study is social support. This is supported by research conducted by Hong and Liu [32] and Pratiwi, Sansuwito, Said, and Poddar [33] which stated that social support has a significant influence on parenting self-efficacy. This shows that the higher the level of social support perceived by young mothers who underwent child marriage, the higher their level of parenting self-efficacy.

Social support is an important factor in increasing mothers' efficacy in fulfilling their roles as parents [34]. In line with research conducted by Azmoude, Jafarnejade, and Mazloum [35], social support from others, especially when facing difficult situations or doubts in making decisions related to child-rearing, can help strengthen the self-confidence and ability of young mothers in child-rearing. This can create a positive cycle where young mothers feel more prepared to face the challenges of parenting.

Social support felt by a mother from her environment, such as family, friends, or colleagues, can increase the level of maternal parenting self-efficacy in fulfilling her role as a parent [36]. Social support in the form of advice, positive encouragement, or instrumental help can increase parents' confidence in child-rearing. Furthermore, it is said that emotional support from the environment can help mothers cope with stress and pressure related to parenting tasks. Having a place to talk about their experiences and hearing that they are not alone in their feelings and challenges can help improve mothers' mental well-being [37].

5. Conclusions

Based on the results of this study, it can be concluded that psychological factors have a significant influence on the parenting self-efficacy of young mothers who engaged in child marriage driven by economic factors. Information literacy is identified as the most significant factor affecting parenting self-efficacy. For future researchers, it is suggested to pay attention to other variables that have not been measured in this study, such as marital satisfaction, resilience, psychological well-being, partner support, and attachment style. In addition, future researchers are also suggested to take a larger sample from various regions.

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