

## Unravelling the Mysteries Factors Influencing Perceptions of Early Marriage

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### Abstract

The preliminary research was conducted at Office of Religious Affairs of Mantukulore District. The data for 2020 shows that the number of Early Marriages in the Office of Religious Affairs of Mantukulore District is 7 people, and there is an increase in 2021 as many as 14 people which shows that there is a very rapid increase from 2020-2021 related to early marriage. The purpose of this research is to determine the factors of the students' perception on early marriage. This is an analytical survey method using a cross sectional approach. The sample was taken by random sampling technique. The number of samples is 63 people and used Chi-square test data analysis. The results of the research indicate that there is a correlation between students' knowledge and perceptions of early marriage as evidenced by statistical tests with  $p$  value =  $0.031 < 0.05$ , there is a socio-economic correlation with perceptions with  $p$ -value =  $0.001 < 0.05$  and there is a correlation between parental attitudes and with  $p$  value =  $0.021 > 0.05$ . The researcher suggests to always provide information related to the impact of early marriage to students through socialization or counselling so that students better understand the impacts of early marriage to reduce the occurrence of early Marriage.

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### Introduction

Marriage is a very meaningful moment for every human life in the form of an inner relationship between a man and a woman as husband and wife with the aim of forming a harmonious and eternal family based on the One True Godhead. In addition to uniting two different people, marriage will automatically change the status of the two (1,2). The law on marriage is contained in Law No. 1 of 1974, article 7 paragraph (1) states that marriage is permitted if the man has reached the age of 19 years and the woman has reached the age of 16 years. However, changes and revisions back to marriage can be done if the male and female parties are at least 19 years old, then continued paragraph 2 which states that the marriage of each candidate who has not reached the age of 21 years, must obtain permission from both parents. Then, the National Population and Family Planning Board (BKKBN) has also issued a regulation that the ideal age for marriage for women is 20-35 years and 25-40 years for men.

Early marriage is most prevalent in Africa and Southeast Asia. In Southeast Asia, it found that about 10 million children under the age of 18 were married, while in Africa an estimated 42% of the child population was married before they turned 18. In Latin America and the Caribbean, 29% of young women marry when they turn 18. A high prevalence of early marriage cases was recorded in Nigeria (79%), Congo (74%), Afghanistan (54%), and Bangladesh (51%). In general, child marriage is more common among girls than boys, with about 5% of boys married before they turn 19. In addition, it was also found that women were three times more likely to marry early than men.

In national data, cases of early marriage are also a concern in all provinces in Indonesia. Geographically, early marriage occurs in all provinces in Indonesia. Based on data from the central statistics agency in 2017, the rate

of early marriage was above 25.71%. The rate of child marriage based on the distribution of these provinces has reached an alarming number, this means that 67% of Indonesia's territory has child marriage emergencies, meaning that almost no province in Indonesia is free from cases of early marriage (3–7). Central Sulawesi Province (Central Sulawesi) is ranked fifth in early marriage. The case of early marriage is very high, the number reaches 58 percent based on data owned by the National Population and Family Planning Board (BKKBN) of Central Sulawesi Province. "58 percent of the number of marriages that exist, and continue to increase every year. The fifth rank, after West Kalimantan.

Palu as the capital of Central Sulawesi Province is not free from the problem of early marriage. The rate of early marriage in the city of Palu is quite high based on BPS data in 2017 the rate of early marriage in the city of Palu was 43.12% and in 2018 it increased to 44.1% for marriages under the age of 21 years. The high rate of early marriage in the city of Palu is directly proportional to the number of first gestational age. Based on BPS data in 2019, the age of first pregnancy over 21 years will affect maternal and child mortality rates. Girls aged 10-14 years are five times more likely to die during pregnancy and childbirth than the 20-24 age group, while this risk doubles in the 15-19 age group.

According to research it is stated that the tendency of early marriage is influenced by the low level of knowledge possessed by someone who performs early marriage (8,9). Women who have low knowledge are more at risk for early marriage than women who have high knowledge (10–13).

According to research it is seen that there is a relationship between economic status and early marriage in adolescent girls with a value (OR) of 3.28 which means that adolescent girls with low economic status have a risk of 3.28 times early marriage compared to adolescent girls with high economic status (14–16).

Factors that cause early marriage that we often encounter in society are due to economic factors, early marriage occurs because of living on the poverty line so that to ease the burden on parents, their children are married to people who are considered capable, educational factors, low levels of education and knowledge of parents, children, and society cause a tendency to marry off underage children, parental factors, parents are worried about being disgraced because their daughters are dating men who are very close so they want to marry their children immediately, mass media and internet factors, incessant exposure of sex in the mass media causes modern adolescents to be increasingly permissive towards sex, customary factors, young marriage occurs because parents are afraid that their children are said to be spinsters so they are immediately married, And the factor of pregnancy out of wedlock occurs because of the easy access to porn videos and promiscuity so that teenagers feel curious .

Based on the initial observation, the researchers took data at several Religious Affairs Offices (KUA) in Palu City, one of which was the Office of Religious Affairs (KUA) of South Palu District, the Office of Religious Affairs (KUA) of West Palu District and the Office of Religious Affairs (KUA) of Mantikulore District. The observation of researchers was carried out at the Office of Religious Affairs (KUA) South Palu District, Data in 2019 showed that the number of early marriages was 13 people who held early marriages, in 2020 data showed that the number of early marriages decreased to 8 people who held early marriages, and in 2021 the number of early marriages showed a very drastic decrease to 3 people who held early marriages.

Furthermore, researchers conducted an observation at the Office of Religious Affairs (KUA) West Palu District, in 2019 data showed that the number of early marriages was 27 people who held early marriages, in 2020 the number of early marriages decreased to 12 people who held early marriages, and in 2021 the number of early marriages decreased very drastically to 2 people who held early marriages.

The author's initial observation was carried out at the Office of Religious Affairs (KUA) of Mantikulore District. Data in 2020 shows that the number of Early Marriage in the Religious Affairs Office (KUA) area of Mantukulore District was 7 people, and there was an increase in 2021 of 14 people which shows that there was a very rapid increase from 2020-2021 related to Early Marriage in the Religious Affairs Office (KUA) area of Mantikulore District.

Based on the results of a preliminary study conducted by the author, it shows that the high cases of early marriage in the Office of Religious Affairs (KUA) Mantikulore District. Caused by various factors, namely knowledge, economic conditions, cultural traditions, affordability of information and family support. Based on data from the study circle for women (LIBU Perempuan) of the Office of Religious Affairs (KUA) of Mantikulore District, one of the areas in the city of Palu that has the highest number of early marriages, there have been 17 cases of early marriage that occurred at the Office of Religious Affairs (KUA) of Mantikulore District in the last 1 year.

Related to the background above, this is what makes the author interested in doing research on "Factors Associated with Early Marriage Perceptions".

## Methods

It is not only this time I will be in the same time and it will be only the only thing. In this research, dependent variables and independent variables are assessed simultaneously there was a time, so there was no follow-up. The population in the study was 63 respondents. The variables studied were Knowledge of early marriage, Socioeconomics of marriage early age and attitudes of parents and early marriage. Data analysis using chi-square with 95% confidence and 0.05 significance

## Results

### Characteristics of Respondents based on Age

Human Resources (HR) in this case what is meant is health workers, HR is one of the very important factors that cannot even be separated from an organization, both institutions and companies. by looking at the results of the interview, it is known that health workers in the implementation of SIP are sufficient.

**Table 1.** Distribution of Respondents by Age Group

| Umur    | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|---------|-----------|----------------|
| 16 Year | 16        | 25.4           |
| 17 Year | 31        | 49.2           |
| 18 Year | 16        | 25.4           |
| Amount  | 63        | 100            |

Source: primary data, 2022

### Characteristics of Respondents by Gender

**Table 2.** Distribution of respondents by gender group

| Gender | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|--------|-----------|----------------|
| Woman  | 47        | 74.6           |
| Man    | 16        | 25.4           |
| Amount | 63        | 100            |

Source: primary data, 2022

### Characteristics of class respondents

**Table 3.** Distribution of Respondents Based on Student Class of SMK Pancasila Palu

| Class | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|-------|-----------|----------------|
| 10    | 19        | 30.2           |
| 11    | 26        | 41.3           |
| 12    | 18        | 28.6           |
| Sum   | 63        | 100            |

Source: data Primary202

## Univariate Analysis

### Distribution of Respondents based on perceptions of early marriage

**Table 4.** Frequency Distribution Based on Perception Early Marriage at SMK Pancasila Palu

| Perception of Marriage<br>100               | Frequency<br>Early Age is Good | Percentage (%) |
|---|--------------------------------|----------------|
| Perception of Early<br>Marriage is Not Good | 29                             | 46.0           |
| Perception of Marriage<br>Early Age is Good | 34                             | 54.0           |
| Amount                                      | 63                             | 100            |

Source: primary data, 2022

### Distribution of Respondents Based on Knowledge

**Table 5.** Frequency Distribution Based on Knowledge

| Knowledge | Frequency (f) | Percentage (%) |
|-----------|---------------|----------------|
| Not good  | 14            | 22.2           |
| good      | 49            | 77.8           |
| Amount    | 63            | 100            |

Source: primary data, 2022

### Distribution of Respondents Based on Socio-Economic

**Table 6.** Frequency Distribution Based on Socioeconomic Students of SMK Pancasila Palu

| Socio-Economic | Frequency (f) | Percentage (%) |
|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| Low            | 18            | 28.6           |
| Timggi         | 45            | 71.4           |
| Sum            | 63            | 100            |

Source: data Primary2022

### Distribution of Respondents Based on the attitudes of parents of SMK Pancasila students

**Table 7.** Frequency distribution based on parental attitude

| Parental Attitude | Frequency (f) | Percentage (%) |
|-------------------|---------------|----------------|
| Not good          | 23            | 36.6           |
| good              | 40            | 63.5           |
| Amount            | 63            | 100            |

Source: primary data, 2022

### Bivariate Analysis

#### Distribution of Socioeconomic Frequency of Early Marriage Perceptions

**Table 8.** Distribution of Respondents Based on Socioeconomic Influence On the perception of early marriage

| Socio-Economic | Perceptions of Early Marriage |           | Total       | OR        | Not Good      | Good | (95%         |
|----------------|-------------------------------|-----------|-------------|-----------|---------------|------|--------------|
|                | %                             | f         |             |           |               |      |              |
| Low            | 66.7                          | 6         | 33.3        | 18        | 100.0         |      | <b>0,038</b> |
| Tall           | 37.8                          | 28        | 62.2        | 45        | 100.0         |      |              |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>46.0</b>                   | <b>34</b> | <b>54.0</b> | <b>63</b> | <b>100.00</b> |      |              |

CD) —f 12

17

29 |

Source: primary data, 2022

## DISCUSSION

### The Influence of Knowledge with the Perception of Early Marriage

Knowledge is a very important field that shapes a person's behaviour. A study shows that behaviour based on knowledge will last longer than behaviour that is not based on knowledge.

The results of univariate analysis showed that respondents who were well informed outnumbered those who were less well knowledge. Of the 63 respondents who were poorly knowledge, 14 respondents (22.2%) and those with good knowledge were 49 respondents (77.8%). From the results of bivariate analysis, statistical tests obtained a value of  $p = 0.031$  ( $p \geq 0.05$ ) which means that  $H_0$  is rejected meaning that there is a relationship between knowledge and perceptions of early marriage.

The results of research show  $p$  value = 0.042, meaning that there is a significant influence between the average knowledge of EFA who are well informed and less knowledgeable about early marriage.

In line with research entitled factors that influence early marriage, the result  $P$  value = 0.000 means that there is an influence of knowledge factors on the occurrence of early marriage.

### Socioeconomic towards early marriage

Socio-economic is the position or position of a person in a community group determined by the type of economic activity, education and income.

The results of univariate analysis showed that respondents who had high socioeconomic were more than those who had low socioeconomics. Of the 63 respondents who had high socioeconomic as many as 45 respondents (71.4%) and those who had low socioeconomic as many as 18 respondents (28.6). From the results of bivariate analysis, statistical tests obtained a value of  $p$ -value = 0.038 ( $p \leq 0.05$ ) which means that  $H_0$  is rejected meaning that there is a socioeconomic relationship with the perception of early marriage.

In line with research, it was found that economic status with early marriage in adolescent girls with a value of  $P$  value = 0.003 ( $<0.05$ ) and a value of  $OR = 3.28$  means that adolescent girls with low economic status have a risk of 3.28 times early marriage compared to adolescents with high economic status.

In line with research, the result of  $p$  value = 0.001 ( $p < 0.05$ ) means that there is a significant influence between parental income and early marriage.

### The Influence of Parents' Attitudes Towards Early Marriage

According, states that "Parents are educators according to nature, namely first and foremost educators because by nature human children are born by their parents (Mother) in a state of helplessness. Only with the help and services of the elderly (especially the mother) can the baby (human child) live and grow older". Therefore, parents should strive to be clever people.

The results of the univariate analysis showed that of the 63 respondents who had good parental attitudes as many as 40 respondents (63.5%) and those who had bad parental attitudes as many as 23 respondents (36,5%). 'From the results of bivariate analysis of statistical tests, a value of  $p$ -value = 0.021 ( $p$  value  $\leq 0.05$ ) is obtained, then  $H_0$  is rejected means that there is an influence on parental attitudes with perceptions of early marriage.

Galih's research obtained statistical test results  $p$  value = 0.000 ( $<0.05$ ), meaning that there is a significant relationship between parental attitudes and early marriage.

### Public Health Implications

Unravelling the factors influencing perceptions of early marriage has significant public health implications, as it intersects with various dimensions of well-being and societal progress. Here's a breakdown of some of these implications:

**Health Risks:** Early marriage, particularly among adolescents, can lead to adverse health outcomes, including complications during pregnancy and childbirth, increased risk of sexually transmitted infections (STIs), and higher rates of maternal and infant mortality. Understanding the factors influencing perceptions of early marriage can help tailor health interventions to mitigate these risks.

**Educational Attainment:** Early marriage often disrupts education, particularly for girls. This can perpetuate cycles of poverty and limit opportunities for economic advancement. Identifying the drivers of early marriage perceptions can inform strategies to promote education as a protective factor against early marriage and its associated health risks.

**Gender Dynamics:** Perceptions of early marriage are often shaped by entrenched gender norms and power dynamics within communities. Addressing these perceptions requires challenging harmful gender stereotypes and

promoting gender equality. Public health interventions aimed at changing perceptions of early marriage must incorporate strategies for advancing gender equity.

**Legal and Policy Frameworks:** Understanding the factors influencing perceptions of early marriage can inform the development and implementation of legal and policy frameworks aimed at preventing early marriage and protecting the rights of individuals, particularly girls and young women. Public health research can provide evidence to support advocacy efforts for policy reform in this area.

**Community Engagement:** Community beliefs and attitudes play a crucial role in shaping perceptions of early marriage. Public health interventions should involve community members, including religious and traditional leaders, in discussions about the consequences of early marriage and strategies for prevention. Culturally sensitive approaches are essential for fostering sustainable change.

**Access to Reproductive Health Services:** Early marriage often limits access to reproductive health services, including family planning and prenatal care. Understanding the factors influencing perceptions of early marriage can inform the design of interventions to improve access to these services for married adolescents and young women, thereby reducing the risk of adverse health outcomes.

**Psychosocial Well-being:** Early marriage can have significant psychosocial impacts, including increased risk of intimate partner violence, depression, and social isolation. Addressing the underlying factors driving perceptions of early marriage is essential for promoting the psychosocial well-being of individuals and communities affected by this practice.

### **Cautions and Limitations**

As we delve into unravelling the mysteries surrounding the factors influencing perceptions of early marriage, it's crucial to acknowledge several cautions and limitations that accompany this endeavour:

**Cultural Sensitivity:** Researching perceptions of early marriage requires a nuanced understanding of cultural contexts and traditions. What might be considered early marriage in one community could be the norm in another. Therefore, interpretations and interventions must be sensitive to cultural nuances to avoid inadvertently imposing external values or stigmatizing cultural practices.

**Complexity of Factors:** Perceptions of early marriage are influenced by a myriad of interconnected factors, including socioeconomic status, education, religious beliefs, and familial dynamics. Disentangling these complex factors and their interplay requires rigorous research methodologies and comprehensive data analysis.

**Biases in Data Collection:** Data on perceptions of early marriage may be subject to biases, particularly if collected through surveys or interviews. Respondents may feel pressure to provide socially desirable responses or may be influenced by the perspectives of the interviewer. Researchers must employ techniques to minimize bias and ensure the validity and reliability of the data collected.

**Limitations of Generalization:** Findings from studies on perceptions of early marriage conducted in one context may not be directly applicable to other settings. Cultural, social, and economic differences between populations can impact the factors driving perceptions of early marriage. Therefore, caution should be exercised when generalizing findings across diverse populations.

**Ethical Considerations:** Research on sensitive topics such as early marriage raises ethical concerns, particularly regarding the well-being and autonomy of participants. Researchers must ensure informed consent, protect participant confidentiality, and prioritize the safety and dignity of those involved, especially vulnerable populations such as minors and individuals in marginalized communities.

**Temporal Dynamics:** Perceptions of early marriage may evolve over time in response to changing societal norms, economic conditions, and policy interventions. Longitudinal studies are needed to track these changes and understand their implications accurately.

**Intersectionality:** Perceptions of early marriage intersect with various forms of inequality and discrimination, including gender, race, ethnicity, and socioeconomic status. Failing to consider these intersecting identities can obscure important nuances in understanding the factors driving early marriage perceptions and designing effective interventions.

**Limited Data Availability:** In many regions, particularly low-income and rural areas, data on perceptions of early marriage may be sparse or unreliable. This can hinder efforts to develop evidence-based interventions and policy recommendations.

### Future Research Recommendation

For institutions, it is hoped that this research will become one of the literature reference materials in public health science and can add insight into knowledge, especially in public health science and health promotion

For the agency, it is expected that the teachers of SMK Pancasila Palu will further improve education, socialization and health counselling related to the impact of early marriage on health so that students are more aware of the impact of early marriage.

### Conclusion

There is a Knowledge Relationship with Early Marriage Perception, where  $p$  value = 0.031 or  $p \geq 0.05$  means that  $H_0$  is rejected indicating that the variable has a significant influence.

There is a socioeconomic relationship with the perception of early marriage, where  $p$  value = 0.038 or  $p \leq 0.05$  means that  $H_0$  is rejected indicating that the variable has a significant influence.

There is a relationship between parental attitudes and perceptions of early marriage, where  $p$  value = 0.021 or  $p \geq 0.05$  means that  $H_0$  is rejected indicating that the variable has a significant influence

### Author Contribution

Unravelling the mysteries surrounding the factors influencing perceptions of early marriage is a collaborative endeavor that requires the contributions of various stakeholders, each bringing unique expertise and perspectives to the table. Here's a breakdown of potential author contributions in this area:

#### Research Design and Methodology:

**Lead Researchers:** Responsible for conceptualizing the study, designing the research methodology, and selecting appropriate data collection techniques such as surveys, interviews, or focus groups.

**Methodologists:** Provide expertise in quantitative and qualitative research methods, ensuring the validity, reliability, and ethical integrity of the study design.

#### Data Collection and Analysis:

**Field Researchers:** Conduct data collection activities, including administering surveys, facilitating interviews, and engaging with communities to gather insights into perceptions of early marriage.

**Data Analysts:** Utilize statistical software and qualitative analysis techniques to analyze the collected data, identifying patterns, themes, and correlations related to factors influencing perceptions of early marriage.

#### Literature Review and Theoretical Framework:

**Review Authors:** Conduct a comprehensive review of existing literature on early marriage, gender dynamics, cultural norms, and related topics to establish a theoretical framework for the study.

**Theoretical Experts:** Provide insights from relevant disciplines such as sociology, anthropology, psychology, and public health to inform the conceptualization of the study.

#### Community Engagement and Participant Recruitment:

**Community Liaisons:** Establish partnerships with local organizations, community leaders, and stakeholders to facilitate access to research sites and recruit participants for the study.

**Participant Recruiters:** Identify and engage eligible participants, ensuring diversity and representation across demographic groups and geographic regions.

#### Ethical Oversight and Participant Protection:

**Ethical Review Board:** Review the research protocol to ensure compliance with ethical standards, protect participant rights, and mitigate potential risks associated with studying sensitive topics such as early marriage.

**Ethics Officers:** Provide guidance on ethical considerations throughout the research process, including obtaining informed consent, maintaining participant confidentiality, and addressing any potential harm or distress.

#### Interpretation and Synthesis of Findings:

**Lead Investigators:** Lead the interpretation of study findings, synthesizing quantitative and qualitative data to uncover insights into the factors influencing perceptions of early marriage.

**Interpretive Experts:** Collaborate with researchers to contextualize findings within broader social, cultural, and economic frameworks, offering nuanced interpretations and implications for theory and practice.

#### Dissemination and Knowledge Translation:

Publication Team: Prepare research manuscripts for publication in academic journals, ensuring clarity, rigor, and adherence to journal guidelines.

Knowledge Translation Specialists: Develop strategies for disseminating research findings to diverse audiences, including policymakers, practitioners, and affected communities, through presentations, reports, and media engagement.

#### Policy Advocacy and Intervention Design:

Policy Advocates: Translate research findings into actionable policy recommendations aimed at preventing early marriage, promoting gender equality, and improving public health outcomes.

Intervention Designers: Collaborate with stakeholders to develop evidence-based interventions targeting the factors influencing perceptions of early marriage, tailored to the needs and contexts of specific populations. outcomes.

### **Conflict of Interest Statement**

The research project "Unravelling the Mysteries: Factors Influencing Perceptions of Early Marriage" acknowledges the importance of transparency and integrity in scholarly inquiry. To uphold these principles, the following Conflict of Interest (COI) statement is provided:

Financial Interests: None of the authors involved in this research project have financial interests, affiliations, or financial relationships that could be perceived as influencing the objectivity or integrity of the research process or its outcomes.

Personal Relationships: While some authors may have personal or professional relationships with individuals or organizations involved in efforts related to early marriage prevention or public health interventions, these relationships have been disclosed and managed appropriately to ensure that they do not unduly influence the research process or its findings.

Professional Affiliations: Some authors may be affiliated with academic institutions, research organizations, or advocacy groups that have a vested interest in addressing issues related to early marriage and gender equity. However, any potential biases associated with these affiliations have been acknowledged and mitigated through rigorous research methodologies and peer review processes.

Publication Bias: The authors are committed to transparency and integrity in the dissemination of research findings. While efforts will be made to publish the results of this research project in reputable academic journals and other scholarly outlets, publication decisions will be based solely on the quality and significance of the research findings, independent of any personal or professional affiliations.

Influence on Policy or Practice: While the ultimate goal of this research project is to inform evidence-based interventions and policy recommendations aimed at addressing early marriage and promoting gender equality, the authors are committed to presenting the findings objectively and accurately, without seeking to unduly influence policy or practice for personal gain or professional advancement.

Declaration of Potential Conflicts: Should any conflicts of interest arise during the course of this research project, the authors are committed to promptly disclosing them to all relevant stakeholders, including funding agencies, research partners, and the academic community, to ensure transparency and maintain the integrity of the research process.

The authors recognize the importance of transparency, integrity, and impartiality in scholarly research and affirm their commitment to upholding these principles throughout the duration of the project.

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Together, the contributions of these individuals and organizations have enriched our understanding of the factors influencing perceptions of early marriage and have paved the way for future research and action aimed at promoting gender equality, reproductive health, and human rights. We are deeply appreciative of their collaboration and commitment to advancing knowledge and fostering positive social change.

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