

## CAUSING FACTORS OF EARLY MARRIAGE IN LHKSEUMAWE CITY PUSONG VILLAGE

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### ABSTRAK: FAKTOR PENYEBAB PERNIKAHAN DINI DI DESA PUSONG KOTA LHKSEUMAWE

Latar Belakang: Pendorong utama terjadinya pernikahan dini masih yaitu tradisi dan kekuatan opini masyarakat, khususnya di pedesaan. Dampak dari pernikahan dini dapat meningkatkan angka kematian ibu, dan pernikahan dini menyebabkan banyak masalah kesuburan.

Tujuan: Menganalisis Analisis Alasan dan Penyebab Pernikahan Dini pada Remaja Aceh di Kota Loksmawe.

Metode: Penelitian kualitatif menggunakan model interpretatif untuk menganalisis pernikahan dini pada remaja putri. Survei dilakukan di kota Loksmawe. Peneliti mengamati tiga kasus orang yang menikah dini. Analisis data melibatkan pengklasifikasian orang dan peristiwa ke dalam kategori dan tanggal sesuai dengan karakteristiknya.

Hasil: Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa penyebab terjadinya pernikahan dini di kota Loksemawe adalah adat istiadat masyarakat seperti remaja putri tidak bersekolah, kriminalitas (perselingkuhan), ketakutan akan pernikahan (cinta), kehamilan pranikah dan kurangnya pengetahuan tentang kesehatan reproduksi.

Kesimpulan: Untuk mengurangi pernikahan dini, setiap pemuda harus menjalani wajib belajar 12 tahun untuk menekan tingginya angka pernikahan dini dan mengurangi minat pemuda untuk menikah di usia muda.

Saran: Bekerjasama dengan organisasi terkait, secara rutin dan berkesinambungan melakukan kampanye penyadaran masyarakat mengenai usia pernikahan yang ideal.

Kata Kunci : Kualitatif, Pernikahan Dini, Remaja

### ABSTRACT

Background: The main drivers of early marriage are still traditions and the power of public opinion, especially in rural areas. The impact of early marriage can increase maternal mortality rates, and early marriage causes many fertility problems.

Purpose: To analyze the Analysis of Reasons and Causes of Early Marriage among Acehnese Adolescents in Loksmawe City.

Methods: Qualitative research using an interpretive model to analyze early marriage among adolescent girls. The survey was conducted in Loksmawe City. Researchers observed three cases of people who married early. Data analysis involved classifying people and events into categories and dates according to their characteristics.

Results: The results of the study showed that the causes of early marriage in Loksemawe City were community customs such as adolescent girls not attending school, crime (infidelity), fear of marriage (love), premarital pregnancy and lack of knowledge about reproductive health.

Conclusion: To reduce early marriage, every young person must undergo 12 years of compulsory education to reduce the high rate of early marriage and reduce the interest of young people to marry at a young age.

Suggestions: In collaboration with related organizations, routinely and continuously conduct public awareness campaigns regarding the ideal age of marriage.

Keywords: Qualitative, Early Marriage, Teenagers

### INTRODUCTION

Everyone on this earth wants to have children. For this to happen, a developmental process is needed to continue the lineage, namely so that the couple through marriage can give birth to children

according to their wishes (Amelia et al., 2017; Apriana et al., 2024; Friscila et al., 2022; Isnaini & Sari, 2019). Most girls who marry before the age of 18 come from poor families and live below the poverty line. Nearly 80% of girls experience domestic

violence (beating, slapping, threats) and health problems. Most girls who marry before the age of 18 can experience pregnancy problems, and cases of death have also been reported. Girls under the age of 15 are five times more likely to die in childbirth than women in their 20s. Birth rates are high among people under the age of 18. Teenage brides often show signs of sexual abuse and stress, including feelings of hopelessness, helplessness, and depression (Afriani & Mufdlilah, 2016; Karolina et al., 2024; Nurhikmah et al., 2021)

Marriage is a marriage promise made by two people for the purpose of formal marriage. It is based on religious norms, legal norms, and social norms. There are many types of wedding ceremonies depending on ethnic traditions, religions, cultures, and social classes. The application of certain customs and rules may also be related to certain religious rules and laws. Early marriage is a marriage carried out by parties who are not yet 17 years old. If a man or woman marries under the age of 17, then it can be said to be an early marriage. In Indonesia, early marriage is widespread not only in rural areas but also in urban areas (Fitriani et al., 2024; Karolina et al., 2024; Mubasyaroh, 2016).

The Marriage Law specifies that the ideal age for marriage is 21 for men and 19 for women, as this marks their entry into adulthood and readiness to fulfill their roles and responsibilities as spouses. Despite this, early marriages are still prevalent, involving individuals who may not yet be fully mature or prepared from a legal or psychological perspective (Arbainah et al., 2024).

Obviously, there are several reasons for them to marry early. The results of this research show that the power of tradition and community opinion, especially in rural areas, is still a driving force for several other girls. Among the few countries where early marriage is practiced, two countries, Bangladesh and Pakistan, have experienced gender discrimination, in Bangladesh 73% of girls are married before the age of 18 and up to 27% of girls are between the ages of 12 and 14, while boys- men of the same age. age is only 2.8%. Almost the same thing happened in Pakistan. The above shows that early marriage occurs in several countries or places and is also influenced by local culture. In fact, early marriage will have two impacts on the perpetrator, two negative impacts and will affect the perpetrator's personal and social life (Frisčila, Hasanah, et al., 2023). Therefore, if it is not predicted, it cannot be denied that early marriage does not bring happiness to the family, nor the purpose of the marriage itself, but on the contrary also brings losses, perhaps even

suffering for the perpetrator (Fitriani et al., 2024; Frisčila, Wijaksono, et al., 2023).

Afghans face a significantly higher risk of pregnancy-related deaths, with rural areas experiencing a mortality rate five times greater than that in urban centers. This increase in maternal mortality is largely attributed to widespread early marriage, which leads to various health complications for women. Beyond the higher death rates, early marriage also contributes to fertility issues. One major health concern associated with early marriage and early childbirth is obstetric fistula, an abnormal connection between the birth canal and internal organs like the rectum. Fistulas can result in severe medical problems including urinary incontinence, bladder infections, infertility, and kidney failure (Parapat, 2019)

Data from various districts and cities in Indonesia reveals that early marriage is prevalent across many regions. Notably, early marriage is prominent in Serdang Bedagai Regency (North Sumatra), Bogor City (West Java), and Pasuruan Regency (East Java). Several areas exhibit high rates of early marriage, including East Java (39.43%), Kalimantan (35.48%), Jambi (30.63%), West Java (36%), and Central Java (27.84%) (Kementerian Kesehatan Republik Indonesia, 2021).

## RESEARCH METHODS

This research uses a qualitative approach with an interpretive model, where social symbolic meaning can be observed through human actions and interactions. This qualitative research aims to analyze early teenage marriages through continued interaction through interviews, observations and documents.

The method of selecting research subjects and informants in this study was not directed at the number but based on the principles of suitability and sufficiency, therefore this study sought research subjects and informants to be included in the study. The research subjects were young women who had undergone early marriage who were willing to provide information based on predetermined criteria and based on the objectives of the study, in addition the research informants were the subject's family, the Head of KUA Banda Sakti and the Head of the Family Welfare Division of the Women's Empowerment Office of Lhokseumawe City.

## RESEARCH RESULTS

Based on the results of interviews with respondents, the factors causing teenagers to marry at an early age were reflected in six themes, namely local community habits, not going to school, fear of

committing sin (adultery), having a partner, being pregnant out of wedlock, and lack of knowledge about reproductive health.

### Local Community Habits

Subject I statement follows.

*"Hino merasa tertekan untuk menikah segera karena di sini umumnya orang cepat menikah, dan dia khawatir akan disebut perawan tua. Meski begitu, orang tuanya setuju karena dia sendiri sudah ingin menikah dan orang tuanya juga mendukung keputusannya."*

Likewise, the statement from subject III is as follows:

*"Di sini, orang-orang sering menikah pada usia 14-15 tahun, jadi jika saya menikah di usia 18, saya dianggap sudah tua. Dulu, orang tua menikah pada usia 12-13 tahun, jadi menurut pandangan lokal, saya termasuk terlambat."*

This is reinforced by the statement of the informant, namely the Head of the Family Welfare Division at the Women's Empowerment Office of Lhokseumawe City regarding the culture of people on the outskirts of Lhokseumawe City in marrying at an early age.

*"Budaya di daerah pinggiran yang mendorong pernikahan dini masih sangat kuat di sini. Banyak orang tua khawatir jika anak mereka dianggap perawan tua, terutama jika anak tersebut tidak bersekolah atau bekerja, karena mereka takut anaknya akan kesulitan menemukan jodoh di kemudian hari."*

*"Di Kota Lhokseumawe, terdapat 287 pasangan usia subur yang menikah muda dari total 34.762 pasangan. Pasangan muda ini tersebar di 4 kecamatan, dengan jumlah terbanyak di Kecamatan Banda Sakti, yang mencatat 97 pasangan dengan istri yang masih di bawah 20 tahun. Pusat permasalahan terletak di daerah Pusong Lama dan Pusong Baru, yang merupakan wilayah miskin dengan mayoritas penduduk bekerja sebagai nelayan."*

### No school

Subject I's statement, as expressed to the researcher.

*"Saya memutuskan untuk menikah karena sudah tidak melanjutkan sekolah akibat biaya yang tidak mencukupi dan banyak adik-adik yang harus diurus. Saya tidak tamat SMP, dan suami tidak mau menunggu saya selesai sekolah. Di kampung saya, jika sudah berhenti sekolah, biasanya orang langsung menunggu untuk dilamar dan menikah."*

The statement from subject II is as follows:

*"....Di kampung saya, ada yang menikah meski belum tamat SMP, biasanya pada usia sekitar 14-15 tahun. Di sini, jika tidak melanjutkan sekolah dan belum menikah, orang bisa dianggap malu dan disebut perawan tua. Sebenarnya, saya masih ingin melanjutkan sekolah, tapi karena keterbatasan biaya, saya sering merasa iri melihat teman-teman yang masih bisa mengenakan seragam sekolah."*

Likewise, the statement from subject III to the researcher.

*"....saat menikah, usia saya 18 tahun. Pada waktu itu, saya masih kuliah, tetapi karena menikah, saya terpaksa menghentikan kuliah saya."*

Subject II's mother-in-law who took part in the interview also added about getting married at a young age because she was no longer in school. Here's the narrative:

*"Laki-laki di sini biasanya bekerja sebagai nelayan, tidak melanjutkan sekolah, dan umumnya hanya tamat SMP. Jika ada yang disukai, mereka cenderung menikah."*

The answers from these three subjects were confirmed by the head of KUA Banda Sakti regarding early marriage. Here's the excerpt:

*"Di Kecamatan Banda Sakti pada tahun 2013, terdapat 30 pasangan dari sekitar 500 pasangan yang menikah, dengan perempuan di bawah usia 20 tahun dan laki-laki di bawah usia 25 tahun. Mayoritas dari mereka menikah karena sudah tidak melanjutkan sekolah atau berhenti sekolah untuk menikah."*

This was also supported by the Head of the Family Welfare Division at the Lhokseumawe City Women's Empowerment Office who said:

*"Kota Lhokseumawe, yang terletak di tepi laut dengan mayoritas penduduk sebagai nelayan, mengalami masalah ekonomi yang serius. Kondisi ekonomi keluarga yang memprihatinkan menyebabkan banyak anak putus sekolah, yang mengakibatkan pengetahuan mereka terbatas. Akibatnya, banyak dari mereka menikah di usia muda."*

### Fear of committing sin (adultery)

The cause or reason for teenagers to get married at an early age is because they are afraid of falling into sin by committing adultery (husband and wife relations without marriage), as explained by subject I below.

*"Daripada berpotensi membuat dosa, kami akhirnya memutuskan untuk menikah. Lagipula, ada teman yang pacarannya terlalu lama hingga hamil dulu sebelum menikah, yang berarti mereka sudah melakukan kesalahan sebelumnya."*

The following is the narrative of subject III's husband's grandmother who took part in the interview explaining the reason her grandson married at a young age:

*"Cucu saya selalu pergi berdua. Sebagai nenek, saya merasa malu jika mereka terlihat bersama tanpa status resmi, terutama karena orangtua si A sudah lama meninggal. Lebih baik mereka menikah daripada terjebak dalam perzinahan."*

*"Kini sudah sulit mengawasi anak-anak yang kecil-kecil sudah pacaran. Lama-kelamaan, kita sebagai orang tua bisa malu pada tetangga. Saya bilang kepada mereka, lebih baik menikah daripada terjerumus dalam dosa. Bukan hanya mereka yang berdosa, tetapi orang tua juga akan lebih berdosa. Setelah mereka menikah, tanggung jawab sebagai orang tua akan beralih kepada suami mereka, sehingga kita sebagai orang tua bisa merasa lebih tenang."*

#### **Already Matched (Love)**

Subject I's statement follows.

*"Saya pacaran selama satu tahun dengan suami saya, dan karena sudah jodoh, kami memutuskan untuk menikah. Saya memilih untuk cepat menikah karena jodoh datang lebih awal, dan suami juga cepat meminta untuk menikah. Lama-lama pacaran bisa berisiko putus, jadi lebih baik menikah karena jodoh ada di tangan Allah."*

Subject II also stated that they married young because they were considered soul mates with their partners, here is their explanation.

*"Saya memang benar-benar menyukai suami saya, dan kami menikah karena sudah jodoh. Tidak ada yang memaksa; kami saling mencintai. Suami saya juga mencintai saya, jadi kami memutuskan untuk menikah."*

Subject III stated that he married because he was already a soul mate, here is his statement.

*"Saya ingin segera menikah karena sudah merasa ini jodoh. Saya sangat mencintai dia dan merasa sangat cocok dengan suami saya."*

#### **Unwed pregnancy**

The Head of the Family Welfare Division at the Lhokseumawe City Women's Empowerment Office confirmed this by stating:

*"Di Lhokseumawe, beberapa remaja menikah di usia muda akibat hamil di luar nikah, yang disebabkan oleh perilaku seks bebas. Pacaran yang berlebihan tanpa memperhatikan nilai sosial dan agama membuat mereka mudah terjerumus ke dalam perilaku tersebut dan mengalami kehamilan. Biasanya, laki-laki yang bertanggung jawab akan menikahi perempuan tersebut, tetapi jika laki-lakinya melarikan diri, perempuan harus menanggung beban penderitaan, dicemooh masyarakat, dan dianggap kotor serta hina."*

#### **Lack of Reproductive Health Knowledge**

The following Subject I expression.

*"Kehamilan di usia remaja dianggap biasa di sini, dan banyak yang mengalami hal serupa tanpa masalah. Saya kurang memahami apa yang ibu katakan tentang dampak kehamilan terhadap ibu dan bayi, karena saya tidak tamat SMP. Selain itu, saya belum pernah memeriksakan kehamilan ke bidan karena takut biayanya mahal. Biasanya, saya hanya mau diperiksa jika ada mahasiswa yang sedang praktik."*

Subject II also did not understand reproductive health, according to the respondent's answer when interviewed by researchers:

*"Hamil di usia muda sama saja dengan hamil di usia tua, menurut saya. Seperti kakak saya, kami tidak mengalami masalah serius selama kehamilan. Saya tidak tahu banyak tentang dampak kehamilan terhadap diri saya dan bayi karena saya hanya tamat SMP. Selain itu, saya belum pernah memeriksakan kehamilan ke bidan, biasanya hanya jika ada mahasiswa bidan yang mengajak praktik baru saya mau diperiksa."*

Meanwhile, subject III has a better understanding and understanding of the negative impacts of pregnancy at an early age, here is his explanation.

*"Kehamilan di usia muda bisa berisiko karena organ reproduksi belum matang, yang bisa menyebabkan gangguan seperti bayi prematur, berat lahir rendah, atau masalah lainnya. Namun, saya bersyukur karena selama kehamilan saya tidak mengalami masalah yang berarti."*

Statement by the Head of the Prosperous Family Division of the Lhokseumawe City Women's Empowerment Office regarding teenagers' knowledge of reproductive health as follows:

*"Benar, banyak remaja saat ini kurang pengetahuan tentang kesehatan reproduksi dan usia ideal untuk menikah serta hamil. Dari sudut pandang kesehatan, perempuan sebaiknya menikah di usia 20 tahun dan laki-laki di usia 25 tahun. Jika menikah sebelum usia*

*tersebut, organ reproduksi mungkin belum sepenuhnya matang, dan kematangan emosional juga belum optimal. “*

## DISCUSSIONS

### Local Community Habits

A community's socio-cultural conditions will greatly influence a cultural tradition in the area, namely whether that culture will continue to be carried out, or whether it has begun to be abandoned due to the entry of other cultures which influence the social and cultural life of the local community. Although the process of accepting foreign culture is not always easy and immediately accepted by the local community, if changes can accept the position of foreign traditions and culture, then the foreign culture will automatically become a tradition that will be followed and carried out by the local community. (Ibrahim & Haliman, 2022).

Vice versa, a culture that has existed since their ancestors, will be very difficult to abandon or replace with another culture. Even if it is possible, the process of change will be difficult and take a very long time, because you have to go through many challenges to change it to new cultures. Sometimes a society, in order to maintain and fight for a culture that has existed since their ancestors, must sacrifice property and objects, so that the culture remains sustainable or remains until the end of their lives. The Acehnese or the people in Lhokseumawe City adhere to a patriarchal system which has become a social phenomenon where decision making is in the hands of men. This social phenomenon is related to socio-cultural factors in a patriarchal society which is gender biased, placing women in a low position and only being considered complementary to men. This condition will only perpetuate a gender-biased patriarchal culture which will give rise to violence against women. Women are considered weak, not having the rights and opportunities to make choices about their own lives (Jennyola Savira Wowor, 2021).

In this study, the subjects felt there was nothing wrong with their choice to marry young. This is due to local community customs which consider it normal for young women to marry at a young age (15-18 years). If a woman marries after that age, people call her an old maid or an unsold woman. People's habit of marrying their children at a young age is due to various factors such as having many children, so that by marrying children quickly it will reduce the economic burden on the family, because they are already the responsibility of the man. Although in reality, many young families actually become a burden on the family because the man who marries

them does not have the right job, or has a job but with a small income.

### No school

In terms of education, someone who marries, especially at a young age, will certainly have various impacts, especially in the world of education. If someone gets married when they have just graduated from middle school or high school, of course their desire to continue school or pursue higher education will not be achieved. This can happen because a person's motivation to study will begin to slacken due to the many tasks they have to do after marriage. In other words, early marriage can hinder the education and learning process. This is like what happened to Subject III, who stopped studying in the first semester because he was married.

A person's level of education will also influence their maturity in acting. In other words, a person's level of maturity is greatly influenced by the way that person is educated and raised. With this statement, it is realized that teenagers still need experience and education before entering marriage. With the right education pattern, a person's maturity begins to form in their teens. On the other hand, with an inappropriate education pattern, maturity will not be formed even if a person is more than 25 years old (Norisa et al., 2024).

The low level of education of teenagers is often directly proportional to the level of family socio-economic status. Socioeconomic status certainly plays a role in children's development, with a sufficient economy, their children have ample opportunities, such as getting education and having their living needs met. This is different from the socio-economic situation of parents which does not meet the family's needs, their children do not have extensive opportunities, such as going to school at a higher level. The burden on parents will become heavier to meet the needs of their family members or children. To reduce the burden on parents who come from low economic backgrounds, they will quickly marry off their children, especially their daughters who are not yet old enough to get married (US et al., 2023).

### Fear of committing sin (adultery)

Aceh Province which has implemented Sharia Regional Regulations referring to Islamic teachings also applies to the people of Lhokseumawe City. In this Regional Regulation it is emphasized that intercourse between men and women is permitted to the extent that it does not open up opportunities for sinful acts. However, what still needs to be input into

the implementation of the Sharia Regional Regulation in Lhokseumawe City regarding the government's role in improving reproductive health is still lacking, because in the Sharia Regional Regulation the government firmly emphasizes how women dress must be in accordance with sharia but in the matter of marriage the government still seems to allow many marriages to occur. early age in adolescents which will have a negative impact on the future of these adolescents, including the children they give birth to.

Relationships in Islam are relationships that are based on the values of purity. When socializing with members of the opposite sex, distance must be maintained so that there is no opportunity for sexual crimes to occur which in turn will be damaging for the perpetrator and the general public. In the Qur'an, Allah says in Surah Al-Isra' verse 32 which means "And do not approach adultery. Indeed, adultery is an abominable act. and a bad way."

For the people of Lhokseumawe City, it is feared that teenagers who date for a long time will commit immoral acts, so it is better for them to marry at a young age than to suffer the grave sin of committing adultery. The many temptations in life, especially during dating, are the first step to wanting to commit adultery. Moreover, currently there are many places to commit immoral acts, so the institution of marriage is considered one way to prevent adultery which will increase sin.

#### **Already Matched (Love)**

Marriage is a very important event that will never be forgotten in a person's life. When two people love each other and agree to build a happy family, this agreement will be realized in a bond called marriage. Their partner's great love causes them to feel that they are two people who cannot be separated anymore, so they decide to end it with a marriage bond (Budastra, 2020).

Some teenagers who decide to marry for reasons of love are actually based on emotional feelings or a deep sense of love. A marriage that is carried out on emotional grounds, it can be said that the marriage is carried out not on the basis of hastening the marriage but rather being in a hurry to get married. Rushing into marriage will result in a heavy psychological burden during the marriage (Rustiana et al., 2020).

A deep feeling of love is the reason why research subjects choose to marry their partners. Subject I felt that their soul mate had brought them together in a marriage bond. Subject II, on the grounds that he had engaged in promiscuous sexual behavior based on great love for his partner and was

afraid of being abandoned, which caused her to become pregnant, finally they got married. Meanwhile, subject III was willing to leave college to marry the husband she loved so much. The three subjects did not marry because of pressure from their parents, but based on a deep feeling of love for their partner.

#### **Unwed pregnancy**

If a pregnancy occurs out of wedlock, marriage is a solution often taken by families and society to cover up the shame and save the status of the child. The majority of women who become pregnant out of wedlock marry the men who impregnated them. Even though people basically don't know many laws, people's actions to hasten the implementation of marriages are more appropriate. Because society and parents are more likely to consider the impacts that will occur next, rather than leaving pregnant young women abandoned and without a husband in their lives. By marrying both teenagers, there will be a sense of responsibility from both of them (Rohmad Azis, 2023).

Teenage life in some regions in Indonesia reflects the life of free teenagers. They make friends with anyone without looking at how close their friends are. They always dated in dark and quiet places. Not only that, they also often display unnatural or excessive dating behavior such as holding hands, hugging, kissing, embracing, touching sensitive areas, and even daring to have a relationship like husband and wife. They no longer think about how their parents respond and behave towards them. Most teenage children, both men and women in the area, often bring their partners to stay at their house for days without parental supervision, even worse, parents often condone the child's behavior.

Teenagers who are in the period of curiosity and want to try will imitate what they see or hear from the mass media. Studies on the use of free time among teenagers show that the majority of teenagers spend their free time watching TV (86% of boys and 90% of girls). Teenagers generally have the courage to listen to pornographic VCDs together at their friends' houses when their parents are not there.

#### **Lack of Reproductive Health Knowledge**

Lack of knowledge or having the wrong concept about reproductive health in adolescents can be caused by the society and families where adolescents grow up giving a narrow picture of reproductive health as sexual relations. Usually topics related to reproduction are considered taboo for parents to discuss with their children (adolescents), so that channels of correct information

about reproductive health are very lacking. Very few parents or families can provide correct information because most still consider it taboo to discuss sex and reproductive health issues (Femilanda, 2017).

Knowledge about reproductive health is very important for teenagers to be able to properly understand the function of the reproductive organs and when the reproductive organs are mature and can function according to their abilities. A young woman needs to understand well what age is good for getting pregnant, in order to reduce disturbances or complications that may occur (Idaningsih & Oktarini, 2020).

There is a *gap* regarding early marriage between ordinary people and in terms of health. According to ordinary people, marriage can take place if the child has reached puberty or has had menstruation (menstruation). From a health perspective, women who marry at an early age of less than 15 years have many risks, even if they have menstruation or menstruation. There are two medical impacts caused by early marriage, namely the impact on the womb and obstetrics. Obstetric diseases that many women who marry at an early age suffer from include infections of the womb and cervical cancer. This occurs because the transition from child cells to adult cells occurs too quickly. In fact, in general, cell growth in children only ends at the age of 19 years. There are differences in views from the general public and in terms of health due to the public's lack of understanding about reproductive health and the impact of early marriage (Utami & Afwa, 2019; Wahyuni et al., 2024).

Knowledge of young women about healthy sex is also still minimal. The assumption that having healthy sex if done when both partners are in good health and not sick is an assumption that is often expressed by teenagers. Healthy sex is sex that occurs after marriage and when the reproductive organs are ready to carry out their reproductive duties such as pregnancy, childbirth and postpartum. Apart from increasing maternal mortality rates, early marriage also causes various reproductive problems. Among the common health problems that arise as a result of early marriage and giving birth at a young age is *obstetric fistula*, which is characterized by the presence of an abnormal passage between the birth canal and internal organs such as the rectum. *Fistulas* cause a number of medical problems such as inability to hold urine, bladder infections, infertility and kidney failure. Meanwhile, the most fatal impact is that it can cause death in teenagers. One of the reasons for the increase in morbidity and mortality rates in adolescents is the low number of visits or

examinations by pregnant women to health workers (*antenatal care*).

## CONCLUSION

The causes of early marriage in Lhokseumawe City are the local community's habit of marrying off young women when they are teenagers, young women no longer going to school, fear of committing sin (adultery), being married (love), the occurrence of premarital pregnancies, and a lack of knowledge among young women about reproductive health. such as not understanding the importance of ANC, the dangers of pregnancy and childbirth at a young age.

## SUGGESTION

Conducting counseling and socialization about the ideal age for marriage routinely and continuously and in synergy with related agencies.

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