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# CORRELATION BETWEEN GEOGRAPHY OF RESIDENCE, SOCIO-CULTURE AND FAMILY STRUCTURE WITH EARLY MARRIAGE

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## ABSTRAK : HUBUNGAN GEOGRAFI TEMPAT TINGGAL, SOSIAL BUDAYA DAN STRUKTUR KELUARGA DENGAN PERNIKAHAN DINI

Latar Belakang: Satu dari empat wanita di dunia yang menikah sebelum usia 18 tahun. Provinsi Kepulauan Bangka Belitung menempati urutan ketiga tertinggi dalam angka pernikahan dini di Indonesia. Provinsi ini sebagian besar merupakan daerah pesisir yang memiliki keragaman sosial budaya. Tujuan penelitian adalah menganalisis hubungan antara geografi tempat tinggal, sosial budaya, dan struktur keluarga dengan pernikahan dini serta mengeksplorasi ketiga faktor tersebut.

Metode: Penelitian ini menggunakan metode studi kualitatif dengan 13 informan penelitian kualitatif (5 remaja putri dan orang tua, kepala desa, Kepala Kantor Urusan Agama, Kepala Bidang Pembinaan Masyarakat Islam, Kementerian Agama). Penelitian kualitatif dilakukan dengan melakukan wawancara mendalam dengan purposive sampling dan dijelaskan melalui proses transkripsi, koding, dan kategorisasi.

Hasil: Penelitian kualitatif menemukan bahwa faktor geografi tempat tinggal, sosial budaya, dan struktur keluarga memengaruhi pernikahan dini.

Kesimpulan: Geografi tempat tinggal, sosial budaya, dan struktur keluarga memengaruhi pernikahan dini.

Saran: Usaha yang sinergis dengan memberikan Pendidikan kesehatan reproduksi dan pendidikan seksualitas kepada anak dan remaja.

Kata Kunci: Geografi tempat tinggal pernikahan dini, sosial budaya, struktur keluarga,

#### **ABSTRACT**

Background: One of four women in the world who had married before 18 years old. Bangka Belitung Islands Province was in the third highest rate of early marriage in Indonesia. This province was mostly a coastal area that had a variety of social cultures. The purpose of the study was to analyze the correlation between the geography of residence, socio-culture, and family structure with early marriage and explore these three factors.

Methods: This study used a qualitative study method with 13 informants for qualitative research (5 young women and their parents, village head, Head of Religious Affairs Office, Head of Islamic Community Development Division, Ministry of Religion). Qualitative research was conducted by conducting in-depth interviews with purposive sampling and explained through transcription, coding and categorization processes.

Results: Qualitative research found that the geographical factors of residence, socio-culture and family structure influence early marriage.

Conclusion: The geography of residence, socio-culture and family structure influenced early marriage.

Suggestion: A synergistic effort by providing reproductive health education and sexuality education to children and adolescents.

Keywords: Geography of residence, early marriage, socio-cultural, family structure.

#### INTRODUCTION

Early marriage or marriage to children under 18 yearls old is a form of violation of human rights and it is a big problem in the world today. The world's attention is expressed in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) targets. The problem of early marriage is expected to be overcome by 2030. The target also addresses the ending of violence and

discrimination against women and ensures that they have equal opportunities in all aspects of life. (Rumble dkk, 2018). The serious impact of early marriage on women is five times more likely to die in cases of pregnancy and childbirth, babies born have a greater risk of dying, premature, low birth weight, malnutrition and 30–40% increased risk of stunting for 2 years. In addition there is an increased risk of

domestic violence, malnutrition problems. Other impacts include higher levels of family poverty and lower levels of education across generations. (Rumble dkk, 2018), (De Groot, 2017), (Osakinle, 2017).

The 2017 SDGs report stated that in 2015, one of four women were married before 18 years old. (UN New York, 2017). Data released by the World Fertility Policies (WFP) in 2012 ranked Indonesia in the highest rank in this case, ranking 37th country. In Southeast Asia, Indonesia ranks very alarmingly, the second largest number of early marriages after the country of Cambodia. Bangka Belitung Islands Province is the highest contributor to number three, 37.19% after South Kalimantan and Central Kalimantan. (BPS, 2017). Several sub-districts in Bangka Regency South shows high rates of early marriage (Toboali, Air Gegas and Simpang Rimba). (Kemenag, 2018).

In addition, there are other things that the Bangka Belitung Islands are coastal areas, especially South Bangka Regency.(www/babelprov.go.id). The coastal area is a transmigration area that has diverse backgrounds, ethnicities, cultures and customs in the social life of the community. The purpose of this study is to analyze the causes of early marriage in South Bangka.

## **RESEARCH METHODS**

The research design used is qualitative research which is studied in the form of content analysis, namely thick description. Qualitative research aims to explore geographical, socio-cultural and family structure factors in influencing early marriage. Informants in qualitative research are 5 young women and their parents, 1 Village Head, 1 Head of the Religious Affairs Office and 1 Head of the Islamic Community Development Division of the Ministry of Religion in the region. The sampling technique in qualitative research uses purposive sampling. Qualitative data analysis through the process of transcription, coding and categorization.

The method of data collection is by collecting it through in-depth interviews related to factors related to early marriage in South Bangka Regency, namely Geographic Demographic factors, socio-cultural factors, and family structure factors. This technique is used to dig deeper. The interview time is 30 minutes-1 hour and is conducted in a place agreed upon between the researcher and the participant, on the grounds that the participant is free to speak without pressure and shame. Questions asked in in-depth interviews include: age of marriage, reasons for early marriage, demographic factors of

residence (coastal domicile); socio-cultural factors (education and ethnicity/culture), and family structure factors (parents' income)

## RESEARCH RESULTS Qualitative Data Results

The results of the qualitative analysis described 3 themes, namely geography of the residence, socio-cultural (education, and ethnicity / culture), and family structure (family or economic income and parental encouragement) factors.

### Geography of the Residence Factor

The results of this study indicated that the geographic of residence factor had a major role in the lives of young adolescent. The position of the village was surrounded by a beautiful and comfortable beach to become a destination, a place to relax, and eliminate boredom.

"They go outside after school, go to beach together with their friends, on Saturday night or Wednesday they like to go to beach, they try to get some fresh air." (the fifth informant)

According to interviews with the Head of Rias Village, there were indeed many residents in the coastal environment who get married early because of a variety of cultures and ethnicities. The area was a migration area where many migrants and traders from outside had sometimes brought their own culture regarding marital perceptions of their children.

"Generally the environment give the influence because there are still many residents of Bangka and migrant, if they do not marry yet when they are 18 years old, parents feel uncomfortable so as to encourage their children to find a mate." (the thirteen informant)

#### Socio-Cultural Factor

Socio-Cultural Factor is factor that consisted of both adolescent gilrs' education and parents' education, etchnic or culture.

#### Education

Based on the results of interviews with parents, it was known that parents supported their daughter's decision not to continue school to a higher level. Parents assumed that their adult daughters could make their own decisions by its age.

"We as parents decide our daughter don't have to go to school It is enough if they are graduated from junior high school. Her father says that she does not have to go to school again." (the second informant)

The situation of dropping out of school and not continuing to a higher level was a cause that

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greatly influences early marriage. Due to the wrong association at an immature age, this girl made education aside. This low education made them less exposed to information, especially regarding reproductive health and the effects of promiscuity.

#### Ethnic/Culture Factor

Poor social life such as night out habits for young adolscent had become a familiar thing. This tradition made children feel free out without supervision from parents or the community and the government. This tradition was a culture of hanging out young people who not only occur on weekly nights, but also known as the night of Wednesday. Based on the results of interviews with the Head of Islamic Community Development of Religion Ministry in South Bangka Regency that the habit had become a culture.

"Culture of Saturday night of Wednesday night still happen here. If you see in the evening there were many adolescent go outside by motorcycle, they use motorcycle with adolescent like couples. Hang out in a quiet place, there was no control from the Satpol PP, there young people to pull over on the edge." (the eleventh informant)

The tradition in married families at a young age that had declined also made adolescent more stable to marry at a very young age. From the results of interviews obtained by adolescent who had a Javanese tribe. of Adolescents' parents in the Javanese tribe had a tradition of getting married at a young age. Respondents always looked in the mirror to friends who also married at a young age was younger than them. So they through their decision to get married was supported.

## **Family Structure**

Income/ Economic

Life with a low economic level in the family made adolescent not continue their education to a higher level even until dropping out of school. During in-depth interviews with respondents it was found that there was no need to get married at a young age. Poor economic conditions in the family made adolescent girls took the decision to get married at young age. They think that this method could ease the burden on their parents and family.

"It is ok, if she gets married. So, parents would not get difficult again. When she gets married there is no thought burden. If not, there used to be an economic burden." (the nineth informant)

From the results of interviews with the chief of village that the economic level in the area was indeed not evenly distributed. It was customary for children at a young age to start working as tin miners. This was done to increase their own money,

improved the family's economy and indeed it had become the backbone of the family.

"From the socio-economic aspect, we are on average, the southern islands of the islands, including tin producers. Young people are more young and they are looking for tin, so their education is also neglected with their stop. That's why they think they are looking for more and then just get married." (the eleventh informant)

## Parents' Support

The role and encouragement of parents had a great influence on a child's marriage decisions. Parental intervention was needed to reduce cases of child marriage or early marriage. Therefore it was very important guidance for parents in the delivery of counseling, information and education related to the problem.

"It is positive, so the parents agreed to marry theit daughter. How can I say that? I think it is ok if they are happy together, kinf of, up to them. Direct apply immediately RT report directly spatial marriage. We should not be afraid of it for long because it has been positive." (the second informant).

Lack of parental supervision of their children when they were outside the home.

"Lack of parental control, because many parents ignore their daughter when they go out at night, parents don't ask where they go, or even where they are during the day." (the eleventh informant)

"There is no preventative prohibition from their parents. Sometimes they wander free until midnight, even these parents don't care. The house is not locked because it knows that the daughter is coming home, deliberately I don't matter what time she backs to home." (the twelfth informant

#### **DISCUSSION**

#### **Geography of Residence Factor**

Qualitative research explained that that the geographic of residence factor affect early marriage in South Bangka Regency. The beach was used as a place to relax, gather and socialize with friends. In addition, the coastal area was an area that wasvery easy for exchanges or places to stop by non-indigenous people. Therefore, this made the area had many diverse population characteristics, especially ethnic and cultural diversity. According to interviews the difficulty of this area lied in communication, large population and cultural diversity. All of these things made efforts to reduce the prevalence of early marriages not easy. Many adolescents who spend time on the beach so it was easy to expose the wrong promiscuity or promiscuity.

According to the results of research on the North Coast of Java, Indramayu Regency, adolescents who live in coastal areas would be more vulnerable to deviant associations. This association could be a cause of pregnancy out of wedlock in children or adolescents who then decided to get married early.

#### Socio-Cultural Factor

Education

In line with the results of research which concluded that girls in Nepal had a significant risk of not continuing education or dropping out of school when marriage occurs at their age. (Sekine, 2017). According to research in the State of Ghana, the impact of low education would create a path called the intergenerational loss cycle. This was because there would be a decline in the impact caused by no exception to the education of the next generation. (de Groot, 2018). Besides this, unemployment rates in reproductive age in Indonesia increased due to jobs that were difficult to obtain due to low education. So as to make the decision to marry young to be a choice rather than having to be unemployed. This was in line with the results of research by Johnson and colleagues in Ghana, that the lower the level of one's education, the greater the risk of having a marriage at an early age. Even children who had not received formal education wiould be at risk 3 times greater. (Johnson, 2019).

#### Ethnic/ Culture Factor

The triggering factor for early marriage in this province was that there were habits which had been entrenched in the social life of the Bangka Belitung community, namely Saturday and Wednesday nights. On these nights many adolescents travel freely without parental supervision, and without sanctions from parents and the community. This environment was supported by the ease of access to social media which was widely abused by adolescent. This wrong access to social media made them easily get along without distance.

#### **Family Structure Factor**

Parents' Income (Family's Economy)

The interview results showed that there was no need to get married early, but economic factors in the family made them took the road to get married at a very young age. Three reasons why adolescent girls made their own decisions for marriage, they were 1) getting pregnant out of wedlock; 2) desire to have a life partner; 3) change in status. (Schaffnit, 2019). Other studies reported that girls in Iran would prefer to get married early to be free from economic difficulties in the family. (Montazeri, 2016).

The community's view still regarded girls as a burden on the family. Economic dependence of girl was also related to gender bias in the division of roles in the household. The role was the role of educating, caring for, and raising children and was responsible for household management. Men had a role as breadwinners in the family. (Pohan, 2017), (Mangeli, 2017). Poor income in the family made parents took the decision to marry their children. In line with research in Nigeria that early marriage was mostly carried out in rural areas and wasexperienced by children whose economic level in the family was categorized as poor. Children were considered a family burden if marriage to them had not yet taken place. Therefore, parents and the community were very supportive of marriage to their children to reduce the burden of living costs in the household. Economic difficulties, especially in developing countries, were factors that drive early marriages. This was a family development strategy, economy, and transactions that were important for family survival.

## Parents' Encouragement

Qualitative results explained that there was correlation between parents' encouragement factors to early marriage. The encouragement of parents was caused by the association of their children who were no longer controlled, causing undesirable things to happen such as pregnancy out of wedlock. An adolescent tend to be influenced by the social environment. Qualitative research results showes that adolescents who engage in early marriage due to environmental factors that were high enough to form self-concept in adolescents. An environment free from parents who let their children got along made children at this age had deviant behavior that leaded to promiscuity. Encouragement of parents who supported their children to marry at an early age due to uncontrolled child relationships and causing children to become pregnant before marriage becomes a strong reason for the parents' encouragement to occur without seeing the child's readiness to step into domestic life. In preventing early marriage, one effective effort was to involve girls, parents and the community. (McDougal, 2018).

The limitation of this study was no Focus Group Discussion which was conducted on all parties involved and no analysis was carried out in all districts.

#### CONCLUSION

Adolescent girls' education was a determinant in early marriage incidence. Because of that, high education level was very important for them. It could decrease early marriage incidence. Geography of

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residence, socio-cultural, and family structure factors influenced early marriage in South Bangka Regency.

#### **SUGGESTION**

A synergistic effort by providing reproductive health education and sexuality education to children and adolescents. So that from an early age they understand the function of their reproductive organs correctly, and begin to be directed to understand the consequences of each action.

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## Ayudita

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