The Relationship of Education, Knowledge, Perception, Family Support, and Socio-Culture to Early Marriage for Some Women in Banjar Regency, South Kalimantan Province, Indonesia

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ABSTRACT

Background. Early marriage is a formal or informal marriage performed under the age of 19 years. In Indonesia, cases of early marriage have always been a strategic issue that needs to be addressed because it will have a long-term impact on the health of mothers and children.

Objective. The study aimed to analyze the relationship of education, knowledge, perception, family support, and socio-culture to early marriage behavior in women in Banjar Regency.

Methods. This is a cross-sectional study using Fisher exact test with a 95% confidence level. The education variable was measured based on the respondent's highest educational level. The knowledge variable was measured using a multiple-choice questionnaire. The variable of perception used a list of statements with a Likert scale. Family support and socio-cultural variables use questionnaires with two choices (Yes/No).

Results. The results of the analysis of 31 respondents using Fisher's exact test showed education (p-value = 1.000), knowledge (p-value = 0.097), perception (not identified), family support (p-value = 0.237), and socio-culture (p-value=0.296).

Conclusion. There is no relationship between education, knowledge, perception, family support, and socio-culture on early marriage behavior in Banjar Regency. This is because there are many factors that influence early marriage behavior that cannot be investigated in this study, such as attitude, economics, peer support, community leaders, and others.

Keywords: early marriage, education, learning, perception, family support

INTRODUCTION

Data from the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in 2016 shows that around 15 million girls in the world are married before the age of 18 each year. While in Indonesia, 1 in 7 girls are married before the age of 18 years.[1] Indonesia is one of the 10 countries with the highest absolute rate of early marriage, with 1,408,000 women aged 20 to 24 years are married before the age of 18 at the time of the study.[1] The results of the Indonesian Demographic and Health Survey (IDHS) in 2017 stated that the percentage of women of childbearing age (15-24 years) who were married was 72%.[2] Data from the Population and Family Planning Agency shows South Kalimantan Province is the second province with the most cases of early marriage with a percentage of 9% after Central Java with a percentage of 52.1%.[3] Along with the high maternal mortality rate in Banjar Regency in 2021 (16 cases), it was also found that Banjar Regency was the district with the second highest number of cases of early marriage in South Kalimantan in 2021.[4]

Associated with the application of the minimum age for marriage, early marriage can be a cause of perinatal death. Early marriage also increases the risk of abortion, obstetric fistula, cervical cancer, and other problems.[5,6] Research by Djamilah and Kartikawati[7] states that the impact of child marriage is related to reproductive health, namely high-risk pregnancies. Another impact felt by women who marry early is the threat on mental health such as anxiety and stress.[8] Early marriage also has an impact on household disharmony; this is due to immature psychological conditions, so they tend to be emotionally unstable in dealing with married life.[9]

Judging from the many impacts, many of the negative impacts lead to the female gender. This becomes a concern, because it focuses on women who will later experience various things after having an early marriage. These negative impacts include risky pregnancies, miscarriages, depression, violence, and so on. From the article of Kompas, the Minister of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection said that currently Indonesia is ranked 101 out of 156 in terms of the gender gap.[10]

The concept used in looking at this case is gender equality and women's rights proposed by Nussbaum.[11] However, there are certain traditions that actually perpetuate inequality for women. As in the context of this case where girls are married at a very young age, so that marriage in the end has hampered the progress of the woman and it is a gender discrimination.[11]

According to the theory of Lawrence Green in 1980, there are three factors that influence a person's health behavior, including deciding to have an early marriage, namely *predisposing factors* consisting of attitudes, knowledge, education, economy, beliefs, and culture; *enabling factors* consisting of infrastructure, affordability of facilities, and the availability of health services; and *reinforcing factors* consisting of support from family, peers, health workers, community leaders, religious leaders, and community leaders.[12]

In line with Pandaleke's research[13] which states that there is a relationship between education and the incidence of early marriage, a person's low level of education and knowledge can lead to a tendency to marry early. This will ultimately affect the attitude of adolescents towards early marriage. Based on the results of research conducted by Pohan,[14] there is a relationship between knowledge and early marriage in young women with an odd ratio (OR) value of 6.19, which means that young women with less knowledge have a 6.19 times risk of early marriage than young women who are well-informed. Furthermore, regarding the perception factor, there are still groups of people who have the perception that women do not need to get higher education, because women have the main task as housewives who take care of their family needs. This family perception is one of the factors that women in the village do not continue their education, resulting in low levels of education and skills.[15]

In terms of culture, which consists of everything that is learned from normative behavior patterns, it means that it includes all ways or patterns of thinking, feeling, and acting. Culture influences human behavior where this behavior is patterned behavior because it appears consistently, repeatedly so that it is accepted as cultural pattern.[16] Based on the research of Rachman, it was found that there is a relationship between culture and the incidence of early marriage.[17]

The role of parents, especially mothers as caregivers and educators of children in the family can affect children's development positively or negatively.[18] Based on the results of research by Rachman, it was found that there was a relationship between family support and the incidence of early marriage. Family support affects the occurrence of early marriage, where the family is the determinant of the child's future decisions, including marriage.[17] The hypothesis in this study is that there is a relationship between education, knowledge, perception, family support, and culture with early marriage behavior experienced by women in Banjar Regency. This study aims to explore the relationship between education, knowledge, perception, family support, and culture with early marriage behavior experienced by women in Banjar Regency.

METHODS

This is a cross-sectional study using Fisher exact test with a 95% confidence level to determine the relationship between education, knowledge, perception, family support, and socio-cultural variables with early marriage behavior variables. The knowledge variable refers to the respondent's knowledge about early marriage, its definition, factors, and the negative impact caused. The perception variable refers to the respondent's perceptions of the phenomenon of early marriage that occur in the area where they live, whether they have a good or bad perception of early marriage behavior; good and bad here are measured by indicators of whether or not respondents agree about things that lead to early

marriage behavior. The family support variable is measured by a question component that leads to the size or the presence or absence of a form of family support for respondents to marry early. And lastly, the socio-cultural variable is measured by seeing whether there is a culture and habit of the local community to carry out early marriage.

Definition of variables

1. Education is the highest level of education that has been completed.
2. Knowledge is what the respondents know regarding the definition of early marriage, factors that influence early marriage behavior, and its impact.
3. Perception is the thought held by respondents regarding positive or negative aspect of something.
4. Family support is the behavior of support from the respondent's family.
5. Culture is a custom or habit inherent in a society related to early marriage.
6. Early marriage is the behavior of getting married early before the age of 19.

Questionnaire was used as research instrument. The education variable was measured based on the respondent's highest educational level. The knowledge variable was measured using a questionnaire with multiple choice questions. The variable of perception uses a list of statements with a Likert scale. Questionnaires on family support and socio-culture use Guttman Scale (Yes/No). The validity test was carried out in areas with the same characteristics, namely in Martapura City and was administered on 30 respondents. Question points that have been included are declared valid.

Based on the consideration that the minimum sample for correlational research is 30 samples, 31 respondents are included using purposive sampling technique. Women who are married in 2022 are included in this study. This is determined so that the respondent really remembers what she experienced and avoids the bias of forgetting if the marriage has been too long. The research was conducted in Banjar Regency in September 2022. Data were obtained from 35 respondents, but only 31 respondents met the requirements because there were questionnaires that were not filled in at all. The respondent recruitment process was carried out by coming to the respondent's house at random. If the inclusion criteria were not met, the respondent will be excluded from the study.

This research has received ethical clearance from the Health Research Ethics Commission, Faculty of Medicine, University of Lambung Mangkurat with letter no 315/KEPK-FK ULM/EC/IX/2022. In the ethical clearance, it is explained that the research uses informed consent formular as well as the feedback given to the respondents. Furthermore, the confidentiality of the respondents is strictly maintained by not including the identities of the respondents and using only initials in inputting data.

Table 1. Characteristics of Respondents (N=31)

Characteristics of Respondent	Number of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Education		
College	2	6.45
Non-College	29	93.55
Work		
Housewife	30	96.77
Business woman	1	3.23

Source: Primary Data for 2022

RESULTS

Table 1 shows that the majority of respondents have non-college education (93.55%), and work as housewives (96.77%).

Frequency distribution of the relationship between education and early marriage shows that the majority are not graduates of higher education and do not marry early (61.29%) (Table 2).

Based on the results of the Fisher exact test, because it did not meet the chi-square test, it was found that the p-value = 1.000 (>0.05) which means H0 is accepted, so it can be concluded that there is no significant relationship between education and early marriage in women in Jingah Habang Ulu Village, Banjar Regency.

Frequency distribution of the relationship between knowledge and early marriage indicates that the majority of the respondents have good knowledge and are not married early (67.74%) (Table 3).

Based on the results of the Fisher exact test, due to not meeting the chi-square test, the p-value = 0.097 (>0.05) which means H0 is accepted, so it can be concluded that there is no significant relationship between knowledge and early marriage in women in Jingah Habang Ulu Village, Banjar Regency.

The frequency distribution of the relationship of perception with early marriage indicates that majority of the respondents have good perceptions and are not married early (67.74%). For the perception variable, the statistical test results cannot be identified because the results are homogeneous (Table 4).

The frequency distribution of the relationship between family support and early marriage shows that the majority are respondents who have low support for early marriage and do not marry early (64.52%) (Table 5).

Based on the results of the Fisher exact test, because it does not meet the chi-square test, the p-value = 0.237 (>0.05) which means H0 is accepted, so it can be concluded that there is no significant relationship between family support and early marriage in women in Jingah Habang Ulu Village, Banjar Regency.

The frequency distribution of the socio-cultural relations with early marriage indicate that the majority are respondents

who are not attached to the culture of early marriage and do not marry early (61.29%) (Table 6).

Based on the Fisher exact test results, because it does not meet the chi-square test, the p-value = 0.296 (>0.05) which means H0 is accepted, so it can be concluded that there is no significant relationship between socio-cultural and early marriage in women in Jingah Habang Ulu Village, Banjar Regency.

Table 2. Frequency Distribution of the Relationship between Education and Early Marriage among Women in Banjar Regency, South Kalimantan Province (N=31)

Education	Early marriage				Total		p-value
	Yes		No				
	n	%	n	%	n	%	
Non-college	10	32.26	19	61.29	29	93.55	1.000
College	0	0.0	2	6.45	2	6.45	

Source: Primary Data for 2022

Table 3. Frequency Distribution of the Relationship between Knowledge and Early Marriage among Women in Banjar Regency, South Kalimantan Province (N=31)

Knowledge	Early marriage				Total		p-value
	Yes		No				
	n	%	n	%	n	%	
Not enough	2	6.45	0	0.0	2	6.45	0.097
Well	8	25.81	21	67.74	29	93.55	

Source: Primary Data for 2022

Table 4. Frequency Distribution of the Relationship between Perception and Early Marriage among Women in Banjar Regency, South Kalimantan Province (N=31)

Perception	Early marriage				Total		p-value
	Yes		No				
	n	%	n	%	n	%	
Not enough	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0	not identified
Well	10	32.26	21	67.74	31	100	

Source: Primary Data for 2022

Table 5. Frequency Distribution of the Relationship between Family Support and Early Marriage among Women in Banjar Regency, South Kalimantan Province (N=31)

Family Support	Early marriage				Total		p-value
	Yes		No				
	n	%	n	%	n	%	
High	2	6.45	1	3.23	3	9.68	0.237
Low	8	25.81	20	64.52	28	90.32	

Source: Primary Data for 2022

Table 6. Frequency Distribution of Socio-Cultural Relationship with Early Marriage among Women in Banjar Regency, South Kalimantan Province (N=31)

Socio-Cultural Relationship	Early marriage				Total		p-value
	Yes		No				
	n	%	n	%	n	%	
Yes	3	9.68	2	6.45	5	16.13	0.296
No	7	22.58	19	61.29	26	83.87	

Source: Primary Data for 2022

DISCUSSION

Education is a process of changing attitudes and behavior of a person or group of people in an effort to mature humans through teaching and training efforts.[19,20] Referring to this definition, education aims to change a person's attitude and behavior. The teaching efforts given in the educational process aim to increase the knowledge of teaching participants.

Based on Notoatmojo's theory,[21] education is a determining factor of one's knowledge which is a factor that determines a person's behavior, including early marriage. In accordance with the results of Pandaleke's[13] research which states that there is a relationship between education and the incidence of early marriage with a value of p = 0.0007 which means it is smaller than = 0.05 and a value of OR = 4.28 which means that a person's low level of education can lead to a tendency to marry early.

However, it is different with the findings in this study, which shows that there is no relationship between education and early marriage. This was in line with the research of Septialti et al.[22] which showed that there was no significant relationship between respondents' education and early marriage in Banyumanik District.

Knowledge is the result of human sensing, or the result of knowing one's attention to objects through the senses they have.[19] In other words, knowledge is everything that is known and understood by someone. A person's level of knowledge can be influenced by many things, including education and access to information or a person's exposure to information. The level of knowledge is one of the factors that can influence a person's behavior, in this case is the behavior of early marriage.

Based on Lawrence Green's theory,[12] knowledge is one of the factors that can influence a person's behavior, including early marriage. In line with the results of research conducted by Pohan,[14] states that there is a relationship between knowledge and early marriage in adolescent girls with a value of p = 0.0005 which means it is smaller than = 0.05 and an odd ratio (OR) value of 6.19 which means that young girls with less knowledge have a risk 6.19 times will marry early than young women who have good knowledge. However, it is different with the findings in this study, which shows there is no relationship between knowledge and early marriage. This is in line with Setiawati's research[23] which shows that there is no significant relationship between adolescent knowledge about the risk of early marriage and the desire to have an early marriage at Kanisius Ungaran Vocational School, Semarang Regency.

Based on Table 4 for the perception variable, the statistical test results cannot be identified because the results are homogeneous. Bimo Walgito[24] revealed that perception is a process of organizing, interpreting the stimulus received by the organism or individual so that it becomes something meaningful, and is an integrated activity within the individual. Responses as a result of perception can be taken by individuals in various forms. Which stimulus will get a response from the individual depends on the attention of the individual concerned. Based on this, feelings, thinking abilities, experiences that individuals have are not the same, so in perceiving a stimulus, the perception results may differ from one individual to another.

According to Lawrence Green's theory,[12] family support is one of the factors that encourage a person to behave, including early marriage. This is in accordance with the results of Arista's research which states that there is a relationship between family support and marriage at a young age with a p value (0.044).[25]

However, it wa different from the findings in this study, which showed there was no relationship between family support and early marriage. This is in line with Nurseha's research which shows that there is no significant relationship between family support and early marriage. Family support in early marriage is support provided by the family in the form of a matchmaking process and family support in the form of advice to marry at a young age. Based on the research results, it shows that as many as 29% of respondents married at an early age because they were arranged by their parents and 22% were on the advice of their parents. Parents match their children when they are deemed ready to marry. The matchmaking process is motivated by many things, including economic factors, educational factors, and socio-cultural factors. Parents with poor socio-economic conditions, when they have daughters who have graduated from school, have a tendency to match their children with someone who has worked with the assumption that the parents' economic burden will be reduced if their children marry.[26]

Based on Blum's theory,[27] culture is one part of the environmental factors that influence a person's behavior, including early marriage. The culture of matchmaking is still developing in Indonesian society. In some parts of Indonesia, there is still some understanding of matchmaking. Where his daughter since childhood has been betrothed by his parents. Whereas generally girls start menstruating at the age of 12 years. So, it can be ascertained that the child will be married at the age of 12 years, far below the minimum age limit for a marriage mandated by law. In addition, in the community there is still a perception that parents are worried that their children will be called old virgins if they are not married immediately.[28]

However, it is different from the findings in this study, which shows that there is no relationship between socio-culture and early marriage, because many other factors influence a person's behavior, not only in terms of culture.

CONCLUSIONS

The results of the study showed that there was no relationship between education, knowledge, perceptions, family support, and social culture on early marriage behavior in Banjar Regency. This was because many factors influencing

early marriage behavior were not examined in this study, such as attitude, economy, peer support, community leaders, and others. This was part of the limitations of the study. It would be better if the samples in the study were multiplied and could apply the principle of regional representation. The researchers hope that there will be further studies related to this matter that discusses other variables that are risk factors for early marriage behavior and improves the quality of research methods so that the expected findings will emerge in the study.

Statement of Authorship

All authors certified fulfillment of ICMJE authorship criteria.

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