

## Determinant Factors of Early Marriage in Bengkulu Tengah

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### ABSTRACT

**Background:** The total number of early marriage in Bengkulu Tengah is one of the highest cases in 2017 (29.12%) Some factors that were contributed in this case are a low income, peer and family influence, and unwed pregnancy.

**Aim:** The aim of this study was to determine factors associated with early marriage in Bengkulu Tengah.

**Study design:** This study was a cross sectional design.

**Place & duration of study:** The population of this study were married people from January to March 2017. There were 237 participants selected in this study with a proportional random sampling. Univariate, bivariate, and multivariate statistics were used to analyze the data.

**Results:** Majority respondents were married at the early age and had a normal menarche history. Most of the respondents were unemployed with low education and low family income. Generally, the respondents never get a counselling about health reproductive, lack of knowledge and attitude, less exposed to media, and had no influence by cultures and friends. Parent and stigma were played a vital role in increasing number of early married. This study found that education level ( $p=0,000$ ), attitude ( $p=0,013$ ), culture ( $p=0,046$ ), friend ( $p=0,023$ ), and parent role ( $p=0,027$ ) was contributed to the factors of early marriage. Occupation was the most dominant factor of early marriage ( $p=0,029$ ;  $OR=2,119$ ).

**Conclusion:** Public health centre need to work together in providing assistance to parents and youth generation in elementary school.

**Keywords:** Early Marriage, Education Level, Attitude, Friends Influence, Parent Role

### INTRODUCTION

Early Marriage or known as marriage under 18 years old children is being attended specially, information obtained from the Council on Foreign Relations tahun 2013 shows that one out of three married children under 18 years old, and one of nine married children is at the age under 15 years old. Indonesia is at the seventh highest rank of marriage under 15 years old (458,000). The previous highest states are India (10,068,000), Bangladesh (2,359,000), Nigeria (1,193,000), Brazil (887,000), Ethiopia (673,000), and Pakistan (600,000)<sup>1</sup>.

Based on the data from the Central Bureau of Statistics on People's Welfare in 2013, there are 10 provinces that have the highest percentage of marriages at the age of 10 - 15 years namely South Kalimantan (15.48), West Java (15.4), East Java (14.92), Banten (13.42), Jambi (11.89), West Sulawesi (11.66), Central Java (11.57), Bengkulu (10.98), South Sulawesi (10.95), and Central Kalimantan (10.22). Based on the data in 2015, there are 20 provinces that have higher prevalence of marriage of children than national rate (22.82 percent). Bengkulu province is on the fifteenth rank with 24.92 percent<sup>2</sup>.

Based on the information obtained from National Family Planning and Residents Board (BKKBN) of Bengkulu Province (2017), Central Bengkulu regency is included in the category of 3 major cases of early marriage. The highest rate is in Mukomuko regency with 32.83%, Seluma regency with 30.03 percent, and

Central Bengkulu with 29.12%. In addition, Secretary of KPI Bengkulu Irna Riza Yuliasuti in a series of anti-violence activities against women in Central Bengkulu regency stated to kompas.com that cases of marriage of children aged 11 years old occurred in Central Bengkulu regency. Age of 11 years old is a period of education in elementary school. Based on preliminary data obtained from the Board of the Empowerment of Women and Child Protection, there is a high case in Central Bengkulu regency in line with the early marriage, where marriage under 14 years old is 4.50%, 15-16 years old is 20%, 17-18 years old is 23.54%, and 19 -24 years old is 41.1%<sup>3</sup>.

### MATERIAL AND METHODS

The type of this research is quantitative with Cross Sectional approach. The research was conducted in 10 sub-districts in Central Bengkulu Regency. The populations in this study were all 300 couples or 600 people who were married in January – March 2017. Sample was taken by proportional Random Sampling technique. The criteria of the sample in this research were first marriage, live in Central Bengkulu Regency, and not widower / widow. The samples in this research were 237 people.

The primary data were collected by using questionnaire that has been tested for validity and reliability, and secondary data were obtained from Religion Affair Office (KUA) and Public Health Center (Puskesmas). The collected data were analyzed by Univariate, Bivariate (Chi Square Test) and Multivariate (Multiple Logistic Regression).

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**RESULT**

**Factors related to early marriage:** The results of bivariate analysis using chi-square test can be seen in table 1 as follows. Based on the results of bivariate analysis using Chi Square test, there are several factors related to early-age marriage, education level (p=0,000), attitude (p=0,013), culture (p=0,046), influence of friends (p=0,023), and role of parents (p=0,027). On the other hand, the analysis also found that there are factors that don't have relationship to early marriage, they are job (p = 0,203), father's education (p=1,000), mother's education (p=0,516), father's Job (p=0,166), mother's job (p = 0,098), family's economic capability (p=0,612), age of

menarche (p=0,151), counseling (p= 0,579), knowledge (p=0,138), and exposure to pornographic media (p=0,461).

**Determinant factors of early-age marriage:** In multivariate analysis, a modeling technique used to assess relationship of independent variables or primary exposure, was the *backward* method.

The final result of multivariate analysis found both *parents' role* (p=0,023; OR=0,477) and *occupation* (p=0,029; OR=2,119) as the determinant factors of early-age marriage.

Table 1: Tthe relation between Respondent's Education, Respondent's Work, Parent Education, Parent's Occupation, Family's Economic Status, Menarche Age, Knowledge and Attitude, Stigma, Culture, Reproduction Health Extension, Media Information Exposure, peers, and the Role of Parents with Early Marriage

Variabelpenelitian	Kategori	Early Marriage				Total		p value
		Yes		No		n	%	
		n	%	n	%			
Respondent's Education	Low	165	72,4	63	27,6	228	100	0,000
	High	0	0	9	100	9	100	
Respondent's Occupation	No	101	66,4	51	33,6	152	100	0,203
	Yes	64	75,3	21	24,7	85	100	
Father Education	Low	164	69,5	72	30,5	236	100	1,000
	High	1	100	0	0	1	100	
Mother Education	Low	164	69,5	71	30,5	236	100	0,516
	High	1	50	1	50	1	100	
Father Occupation	No	2	40	3	60	5	100	0,166
	Yes	163	70,3	69	29,7	232	100	
Mother Occupation	No	99	65,6	52	34,4	151	100	0,098
	Yes	66	59,9	20	26,1	86	100	
Family's Economic Status	Low	98	68,1	46	31,9	144	100	0,612
	High	67	72	26	38	93	100	
Age of Menarche	Abnormal	3	37,5	5	62,5	8	100	0,151
	Normal	115	63,9	65	36,1	180	100	
Reproduction Health	Yes	122	70,9	50	29,1	172	100	0,579
	No	43	66,2	22	33,8	65	100	
Knowledge	Less	99	73,9	35	26,1	134	100	0,138
	Good	66	64,1	37	35,9	103	100	
Attitude	favorable	76	79,2	20	20,8	96	100	0,013
	Unfavorable	89	63,1	52	36,9	141	100	
Media Information Exposure	Yes	72	72,7	27	27,3	99	100	0,461
	No	93	67,4	45	32,6	138	100	
Culture	Yes	70	77,8	20	22,2	90	100	0,046
	No	95	64,6	52	35,4	147	100	
Friend's Influence	Yes	83	77,6	24	22,4	107	100	0,023
	No	82	63,1	48	36,9	130	100	
Parent Role	No	75	78,1	21	21,9	96	100	0,027
	Yes	90	63,8	51	36,2	141	100	
Stigma	High	89	65	48	35	137	100	0,093
	Low	76	76	24	24	100	100	

Table 2: Multivariat AnalysisMultiple Logistic Regression Determinant Factors of Early Marriage in Bengkulu Tengah

Step of Analysis	B	P	OR	95% CI
Education	-22,543	0,999	-	0,000 – 0,000
Occupation	0,751	0,029	2,119	1,078 – 4,164
Mother Occupation	0,723	0,031	2,061	1,069 – 3,974
Role Parent	-0,741	0,023	0,477	0,252 – 0,904
Constant	20,853	0,999		

## DISCUSSION

High educational expense factor was the reason why respondents did not continue their education. Different levels of education will influence different behaviors in making decisions on whether or not to marry. In addition, results of interviews that has been conducted show that respondents did not know about possible negative impact that may occur due to early-age marriage. This study result is in line with the one that has been conducted by Nasrullah (2014) more than half (68%) of early marriage occur in respondents who did not study<sup>4</sup>.

A study conducted by Wong (2005) indicates that women who have low education have higher risk for early-age marriage compared with women who have higher education. The early-age marriage often causes children no longer attend school because they have new responsibilities both as a wife and a candidate of mother<sup>5</sup>.

Early marriage among women with low educational status, 12, 6% of women with primary school education married pda age of 1 year and 51% less educated women marry at the age of 18 years<sup>6</sup>. Women's education levels correlated with age first married, the lower the education of young semkin age to marry<sup>7</sup>. Another study found that a person's level of education is directly related to the age at first marriage, 42.4% of marriages that occur in uneducated respondents with age less than 15 years<sup>8</sup>.

Respondents prefer to marry early because there are no other activities (not working and not attending school). According to Nasrullah (2014) Not having work is one of the factors that causes a person to make a decision to get married easily, after marriage they only work as housewives<sup>4</sup>.

Parental education also determines the age of child marriage where a study proves that parents who are uneducated at the age of marriage less than 18 years old are blah compared to educated parents, especially in maternal education<sup>9</sup>. Amounting to 48.33 percent early marriage occurs dikarenakan lack of education of parents, parents with low education will be a factor of the dissolution of the education of children<sup>10</sup>.

Living in a household that is classified as poor is one of the factors that makes a person make a decision to get married, to reduce the burden on the family economy<sup>6</sup>. Early marriage often occurs in those with low economic status<sup>4</sup>. In Tanzania, the main cause of teenage marriage is due to poverty factors. Marriage is considered to be able to help the family economy. Marriage of a child can make money with the price of a bride that has been agreed upon. in addition, the inability of families to meet the needs of their daughters is also a factor in the occurrence of early marriage<sup>9</sup>.

The above statement is not in lined with Raj's study (2015) which said that there is a relationship between the age of menarche and early marriage. The first menstruation experience is one sign that a girl is in puberty. The greater prevalence of early marriage occurrences with rapid menarche age is predicted due to sexual behavior driven by sexual desire that is not balanced by thinking maturity so that it can come into

unwanted pregnancies ending in marriage at an early age<sup>11</sup>. Neal (2016) shows the entry of women in puberty encourages an increase in the age of married women less than 20 years<sup>12</sup>. In Bangladesh, the age of first marriage is traditionally limited by menarche, these differences produce exogenous variations in the risk of girls marrying young people<sup>13</sup>.

Around 70.9% of adolescents never receive reproductive health education or socialization about reproductive health and early marriage. At least information about the impact of getting married at an early age caused a young woman to make a decision to get married (10.83%)<sup>11</sup>. Almost all respondents (99%) received information about early marriage from health workers and family planning, television, radio, newspapers, educational institutions, family members<sup>14</sup>. This happens due to basically that the best sex education is started by parents themselves, and can also be realized through the way of life of parents in the family as husband and wife who are united in the marriage. The availability of health services can directly affect a person in utilizing health services. A health service will be effectively used due to the availability of a human resource. It is said that resources are available if they are exist and are obtained without considering the easy or difficult health services. Along the line of Vasanth (2015) which said that there is no association between knowledge and early marriage. Knowledge is information that has been united with understanding<sup>15</sup>. Most of the informants stated that they did not know the impact on health if the marriage occurred at the age of less than 18 years and were not ready to face child health problems and difficult births<sup>4</sup>.

In another study, 19 of the 20 respondents agreed with marriages conducted at the age of 11-17 years, assuming that women who married less than 18 years were more adaptable to new families<sup>4</sup>. The ease of adolescents in accessing sexual information and the availability of media facilities (sexual books, magazines, blutin, and some media such as television, radio and video) encourages teenagers to behave sexually with their partners<sup>9</sup>.

Respondents who are culturally affected have early marriage opportunities compared to those with no cultural influence. In some families, there has a tradition or habit of marrying their offspring at young age, and this goes on and on, so that the children in the family will automatically follow the tradition. This is due to local customs. For example, the belief that it is forbidden to reject the man's marriage proposal to a daughter even though she is still under the age of 18 years. Rejection is sometimes considered insulting. This condition also causes the parents to marry off their daughters. Most girls are told to get married by their parents earlier because of existing customs. This is due to the parents' concerns that their daughter will be safe from the myth of being a spinster. Other causes of adolescent girls' marriage are traditional and traditional cultural factors<sup>9</sup>. Respondents affected by friends have a chance of 2,024 times for early marriage compared to those unaffected by friends. Early marriage is done to avoid the stigma of pregnancy outside marriage which is experienced by many other teenagers<sup>16</sup>.

## CONCLUSION

Occupation is the dominant factor related with Early Marriage. Dropping out and not working encouraged the respondents to decide to marry, as the respondents assumed that if there are no such activities as working, it is better to be married.

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