

Original Article

The Role of Parents to Prevent Teenagers Early Marriage in Banyumas Regency, Indonesia

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ABSTRACT

Background: Early marriage is still a concrete problem. One of the factors related to preventing early marriage is the importance of emphasizing the involvement of parents in providing assistance and supervision control.

Methods: This research uses a qualitative approach with a case study approach. The research location is in Datar Village, Contributing District. The research subjects in this study were the midwives of the puskesmas, village head, parents of teenagers, as well as representatives of Babinsa and the Police of the Contributing District sector with a total of 8 peoples. How to collect data by using focus group discussions. Data analysis used descriptive analysis.

Results: Prevention of early marriage requires the involvement of the role of parents through the emphasis on assistance adolescents by parents.

Conclusions: The emphasis on assistance is carried out by building a trusting relationship between parents and adolescents, controlling adolescent behavior by parents, and participating in teenagers family development.

Keywords: early marriage, prevention, assistance, parents

INTRODUCTION

The Convention on the Rights of the Child defines that marriages performed by a person before reaching the age of 18 are internationally categorized as child marriages. International law stipulates child marriage as a form of violence against women and violates human rights. According to the Population and Family Planning Agency, a healthy marriage is a marriage between a 25 year old man and a 20 year old woman. This is considered on the basis of the readiness of the reproductive system (Septianah et al, 2020). Early marriage is a marriage carried out by a teenager under the age of 18 years. According to WHO, adolescents are

people in the age range of 10-19 years. Teenagers is a transitional period marked by physical, emotional, and psychological changes as well as a period of puberty (Nabila et al., 2021).

According to UNICEF globally it is estimated that the number of young people getting married at the age of a child is 21%. There are 650 million children who have married before the age of 18. Early marriage is mostly practiced in South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa. The prevalence of early marriage in Indonesia fluctuated from 23% in 2015 and then decreased in 2016 by 22.35%. In 2017 there was an increase of 25.71% and in 2018 in Indonesia 1 in 9 girls was married. Women aged 20-24 years who married before the age of 18 are estimated at around 1,220,900. This figure places Indonesia in the 10 countries with the highest absolute number of child marriages in the world (Central Bureau of Statistics, 2020). The highest provinces in Indonesia based on absolute rates of early marriage are West Java, East Java, and Central Java (SUSENAS, 2018).

Central Java Province has a percentage of women whose first marriage age was less than 18 years in 2015 amounted to 11.47%, then increased in 2016 by 11.72%. In 2017 it decreased to 10.37%, then in 2018 it increased to 11.04%. (SUSENAS, 2018). The phenomenon that causes high early marriage in Central Java is influenced by culture, in Javanese culture, early marriage is considered a natural thing. Based on Dewi and Putra's research (2020) it is stated that parents in Javanese society marry off their children at a young age because they follow customs, parents are afraid that if they refuse an application from a man, they will get karma, namely as an old maid.

Banyumas Regency according to the Banyumas Regency Religious High Court and Purwokerto High Religious Court cases of marriage dispensation in 2017 amounted to 193 cases, then in 2018 there were 222 cases, in 2019 increased to 292 cases, in 2020 to August showed an increase in cases of marriage dispensation namely 364 cases (High Court of Religion Banyumas and Purwokerto, 2020). The trend

of early marriage in Banyumas is due to low levels of education, local socio-cultural conditions, and couples being forced to marry early due to pregnant women before marriage.

The implications of child marriage are very complex and pose a real challenge to the continuity of the nation's generation, including the potential for failure to continue education, increasing domestic violence and divorce, increasing MMR due to pregnancy complications, being vulnerable to damage to reproductive organs, potentially increasing infant mortality, and potentially causing economic losses (BAPPENAS), (2020). The age at first marriage by women has a negative impact on their fertility. The younger the age at first marriage, the greater the risk for the safety of mothers and children (Hermambang et al. 2021). Child marriage is associated with high fertility, short-distance pregnancies, and the occurrence of unwanted pregnancies, and can increase the risk of sexually transmitted diseases (Srinayanti et al., 2023)

The high rate of early marriage shows the importance of preventing child marriage. Prevention of child marriage can be done by providing comprehensive reproductive health information because it has the potential to strengthen adolescents' understanding of risk factors that are believed to be able to prevent child marriage (Rika et al. 2024). The government program is related to efforts to prevent early marriage through maturing the marriage age through the Generation Planning program, this program focuses on delaying the age of marriage and ending early marriage. Another program carried out by the government is through the 12-year compulsory education program which is expected to be able to prevent early marriage (Noor et al. 2018). Early marriage prevention behavior can also be carried out by teenagers such as being honest with the conditions experienced, joining religious and community activities, developing themselves by working, and hanging out with good friends (Vidya et al., 2024). Other efforts that can be done are by accessing education, improving skills, and providing information to adolescents related to reproductive health.

The driving factors for early marriage according to Anggraeni et al (2024) include several factors including economic factors, education level factors, parental factors, mass media factors, traditional factors, religion, and divorced families. The results of previous studies stated that factors related to preventing early marriage in adolescents were knowledge, education level, attitudes and access to information (Ointu et al. 2020; Septianah et al, 2020). the role of parents and peers in preventing premarital sex where premarital sex is associated with the occurrence of early early marriage in adolescents (Sicity and Rindu, 2020; Sigalingging and Sianturi, 2019).

Kampung KB empowers the community in the target group of activities which include, Development of Toddler Families, Teenagers Family Development, Elderly Family Development, UPPKS group (Efforts to Increase Prosperous Family Income), Teenagers Counseling Information Center (PIK-R).). one of the implementation programs to prevent early marriage and early pregnancy is teenager family development.

One of the goals of teenager family development is to control the population through a strategy of maturing the age of marriage so that the minimum age at marriage is 20 years for women and 25 years for men (BKKBN, 2012).

Adolescent problems related to reproductive health include sexuality, HIV-AIDS and drugs. Sexuality related to risky reproductive health behaviors include early marriage, early pregnancy, juvenile delinquency, the risk of HIV-AIDS transmission, drug abuse, pornography, free sex. This problem can be minimized through community empowerment efforts, especially focusing on teenagers groups and their families.

Early marriage in adolescents is still a major problem. Early marriage in adolescents is considered a common thing by some parents and society. The impact of early marriage on health is increased maternal and infant mortality, the risk of pregnancy complications (preeclampsia, bleeding, anemia, prolonged labor, premature rupture of membranes) and the risk of transmission of sexually transmitted diseases, the risk of cervical cancer. Children who are born will be at risk for developmental delays, learning difficulties and behavioral disorders (Septianah et al., 2020).

The age group less than 20 years accounted for 4.42% of maternal deaths. The percentage of women who married before the age of < 18 has increased. Judging from the 2010 data, the prevalence of married adolescents aged less than 18 years was 24.5%, which increased in 2016 to 39.17%. Based on data from the Health Office, there was an increase in the number of pregnancies at a young age from 729 to 922 cases. Based on this data, the Sumbang Health Center I and II cases of teenage pregnancy in 2017 were 68 (9.32%) to 116 (12.58%) in 2018. Factors that influence the occurrence of young pregnancies are customs that are carried out from generation to generation, access to information, low economic level, low education in adolescents and parents, family that is not harmonious have an impact on free sex behavior in children.

The Office of Religious Affairs in the Subdistrict of Donor reported that there was an increase in the number of cases of marriage dispensation by 22 cases in 2019 to 45 cases until August 2020. Young pregnancies, i.e. pregnancies of less than 20 years of age in the Subdistrict of Donor, recorded 148 cases. Adolescent pregnancies are associated with early marriage and are at risk for health, such as the number of premature births (LBW) in mothers aged less than 20 years, pregnancies in mothers aged less than 20 years at greater risk of chronic energy deficiency, and cases of congenital abnormalities in mothers aged less than 20 years.

The family has a big role in preventing early marriage which will also be associated with early pregnancy. Programs carried out in this prevention effort can be carried out by emphasizing the role of parents of adolescents, it can be done to build trust and influence communication about early marriage and early pregnancy. Based on this background, it is necessary to make concrete efforts to examine efforts to prevent early marriage in adolescents through an emphasis on

the involvement of parental roles related to mentoring and control/supervision.

METHODS

The research approach used is qualitative research. The problem that is the focus of this research is the emphasis on parental assistance in preventing early marriage in adolescents. The qualitative approach uses a case study approach. The case study in this study uses a phenomenological paradigm, which is to understand the point of view of preventing early marriage in adolescents that can be done by parents. The case study in this research contains a comprehensive description and explanation of the individual and community aspects or related to the implemented program.

The background of this research was carried out in Datar Village, Sumbang District, Banyumas Regency. The case study in this study involved the target audience of midwives at the puskesmas, village coconuts, parents of teenagers, teenagers, as well as representatives of Babinsa and the Police of the Subdistrict of Sumbang. The total informants used in this study were 8 people.

The case study in this study explores the perception of adolescent early marriage, the importance of parental involvement in preventing early marriage, and optimizing the implementation of the Teenagers Health Development program to campaign for efforts to prevent early marriage in adolescents.

The research instrument in this case the researcher acts as a key instrument or main research tool. The researcher is also the collector of research data. Documents obtained by researchers in the field that can serve as support for this research. The data sources used were obtained by means of focus group discussions as the main data collection and documentation techniques as additional data sources. The data analysis model used in this research is descriptive analysis.

RESULTS

The emphasis on Parents assistance

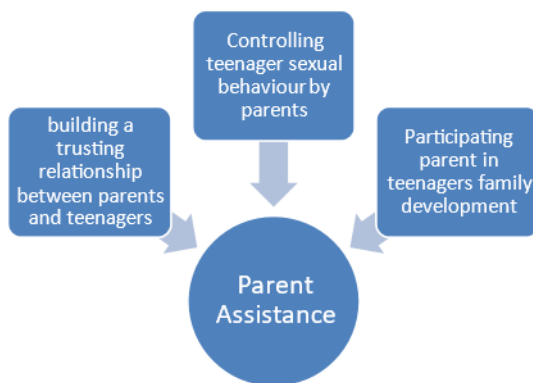


Figure 1. Parent Assistance to Prevent Early Mariage

The results of discussions conducted by involving the target audience of puskesmas midwives, village coconuts, parents of teenagers, teenagers, as well as representatives of Babinsa and the Subdistrict Police of the Sub-district of the Sub-District, formulated that efforts to prevent early marriage can be carried out through Teenagers Family Development activities. These efforts emphasize the following aspects, namely build a trusting relationship between teenagers and parents, emphasis on adolescent behavioral control, the importance of participating in the *Teenagers Family Development* group .

Build a relationship between teenagers and parent can seen from the informant's answers are:

"parents act as friends enjoyable discussion"

"parents listen and provide solutions when teenagers have a problem"

"parents spend time together to establish a good relationship with teenagers"

Emphasis on adolescent behavioral control can seen from the informant's answer are :

"parents provide understanding about sex education for teenager"

"parents supervise teenagers' interactions so as not to fall into it wrong and possible associations endanger himself"

"parents guide and provide understanding to teenagers about the good and bad of life is an effort that can be done parents so that teenagers do not fall into it to negative things"

"parents provide support to teenagers"

"parents guide teenagers to provide knowledge about reproductive health from an early age"

The importance of participating in teenagers family development group can be seen from the informant's answer are :

"with the teenagers family development group, parents can be helped in understanding adolescent problems, and how communicating with teenagers"

"any family with teenagers can exchange them information and discussion about teenagers through activities held by the teenagers family development group"

"teenagers family development groups can help increase knowledge, attitudes and behavior of adolescent parents in fostering growth youth"

DISCUSSION

Build a Trusting Relationship Between Teenagers and Parents

Teenagers' risky behavior about dating and premarital sex is the cause of teenagers practicing early marriage. The factors for the occurrence of early marriage in adolescents are internal factors and external factors. Internal factors are causative factors that come from within adolescents because of their own choice, motivation or will. This is in accordance with Jensen's opinion in Sarwono (2011), namely the Rational Choice theory which states that the practice of premarital sex by adolescents occurs because of their own choice, interest, motivation or will. External factors are factors that cause juvenile delinquency originating from outside the child, such as factors originating from the environment, the influence of playmates and the harmony of communication between parents and children. The harmony factor of parent-child communication is also the cause of early marriage in adolescents. The busyness of parents is the cause of the disconnection of communication between parents and children. Aspects that are usually known to parents of teenagers related to school lessons, friends at school, sadness and pleasure experienced by adolescents including attraction to the opposite sex, so that adolescents will express their experiences, feelings, and thoughts about the goodness of the family, including criticism of their parents. Willis, (2013).

The emergence of the phenomenon of early marriage that occurs in adolescents is due to the lack of interpersonal communication between parents and children, lack of attention from parents to the activities carried out by children and the lack of affection given by parents. This is in accordance with what Gulam (2016) stated that parents are the party most responsible for the behavior of their children.

Gunawan (2013) states that in the family environment, communication between family members is also a very important thing, especially between parents and children, where communication is a tool or as a bridging medium in relationships between family members. The poor quality of communication in the family will have a negative impact on the integrity and harmony in the family itself. For example, the factors that cause early marriage of teenagers can be caused by poor interpersonal communication in the family, so that the teenager becomes wrong in association so that they engage in risky sexual behavior. This has an impact on unwanted pregnancies in adolescents, so that in the end teenagers do early marriages without first completing their studies.

Emphasis on Adolescent Behavioral Control

There was a relationship between parental control and the influence of mass media on adolescent sexual behavior and there was no relationship between peer influence on adolescent sexual behavior.

These results are in accordance with research conducted previously which stated that there was a relationship between the role of parents and sexual behavior (Nabila et al., 2015). Research conducted by Anggraeni et al (2024) states that the role of parents is the most dominant variable related to adolescent sexual behavior, but Pontoan (2015) states that there is no significant relationship between the role of parents and premarital sexual behavior. The relationship between children and parents, parental control and communication between children and parents will have an impact on sexual behavior in adolescents. Good control from parents is closely related to delaying sexual intercourse in adolescents. Control and monitoring from parents will limit the opportunities for adolescents to have premarital sexual relations.

Based on research in Canada on adolescents in high school, it shows that adolescents who have had sexual relations before the age of 14 have a low relationship with their parents, both with mother and father figures (Tulloch, 2013). In addition, the relationship between parents and children can also affect the sexual behavior of adolescents themselves. In this case, the family condition is not good (broken home), the lack of intensity of meeting children with parents has a tendency for teenagers to have risky sexual behavior. Adolescents get more information about reproductive health and adolescent sexual behavior from the media (print and electronic) compared to information from their parents or peers (Irma et al., 2015).

The Importance of Participating in The Teenagers Family Development Group

The results of Patrycja's research (2022) show that there is a relationship between motivation and the participation of parents who have young women in adolescent family development activities. Parents who have low motivation to participate in Teenagers Family Development activities have an impact that mothers are not present in Teenagers Family Development activities so that mothers do not get information about adolescent growth and development which is useful for mothers to provide information about developments in adolescents, so that adolescents can develop according to their needs. stage of development and mothers can better understand the problems that occur in their teens.

Approaches to families who have teenagers are carried out through the development of teenagers family development. Teenagers family development is a forum for activities consisting of families with teenagers aged 10-24 years. Teenagers family development has the goal of increasing the knowledge and skills of parents and other family members in nurturing and fostering adolescent growth and development, in order to increase participation, guidance, and independence in family planning for group members (Septianah et al., 2020).

CONCLUSION

The importance of preventing early marriage requires the involvement of the role of parents, one of which is the emphasis on mentoring adolescents by parents. The emphasis on mentoring is carried out by building a trusting relationship between parents and adolescents, controlling adolescent behavior by parents, and participating in Teenagers Family Development.

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