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Marriage age maturity education

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Abstract

Early marriage is still a national concern that requires an approach through education to mature the age of marriage for the community. In this case, the role of academics is crucial in providing an explanation of the importance of understanding marriage in a mature way. This problem occurs due to a lack of awareness of the risks associated with early marriage. The foundation for preventing early marriage is placed in the family, especially with the role of parents who play an important role in providing this education. Community service is a means of providing education about the risks of early marriage, and teaching the importance of maturing the age of marriage to create a better social life within the family. In addition, the Singapore Muhammadiyah Islamic College as a partner also plays a role in providing education on maturing marriage to the Unismuh Makassar TEAM. This activity was carried out in Bungoro District, Pangkajene and Islands District (Pangkep).

Keywords: Education, marriage age maturity, bungoro

1. Introduction

Marriage is a contractual bond that gives birth to a family as one of the elements of life which is governed by the rule of law, both Islamic law and positive law. In fact, early marriage in ancient times until today is still a lot going on, this is because the community has a lack of understanding/thought about education and the Law on Marriage Law, which has set requirements regarding the age limit for being able to enter into marriage (material requirements), one of which is the age limit contained in: Article 7 paragraph (1) of Law Number 16 of 2019 (Personal Requirements). Amendment to Law Number 1 of 1974) which states that "Marriage is only permitted if a man and a woman have reached the age of 19 years".

The phenomenon of child marriage still causes controversy in society because of different points of view. The conflict between legal law legally states that it is legal for women and men to marry at the age of 19 as long as they get permission from their parents and under certain circumstances. Marriage at a young age correlates with high fertility.

Based on data from the Department of Empowerment, Protection of Women and Children, Population Control and Family Planning (DP3AP2KB), it was stated that the four regions with the highest percentage of early marriage were Pangkep, Wajo, Barru and Tana Toraja. That education and the participation of the community and academics, practitioners, religious leaders, and village officials are needed to reduce the rate of early marriage.

The importance of educating the public about maturing the age of child marriage because it has risks, namely: 1) violating the law because it has been regulated in the law on the age of marriage, 2) the spread of sexual diseases for adolescents and the potential for HIV infection, 3) Sexual violence can increase, 4) the risk of pregnancy increases, 5) the risk of experiencing psychology, 6) low economic and social level.

With high data and the risks that arise, it can be anticipated by carrying out education to the public in general, because Pangkep in the data is the district with the highest early marriage rate in South Sulawesi so that it is used as a location for international collaboration services that can provide education to the community.

Preventing early marriage requires the support of all parties, including families, individual children, schools, government and similar institutions such as religious courts. Parents must really understand the future risks of their children and families if they marry children who are not yet mature physically, mentally and financially. Children must be given proper education to increase their potential. Existing policies must be implemented properly and correctly. Because of this firmness, the risks of early marriage for family social life were socialized to parents.

2. Problem Statement

Based on data from the Religious Court of Pangkep Regency, there are 3 sub-districts out of 13 sub-districts that have a number of contributors to child marriage, namely Bungoro sub-district, Labakkang sub-district, and Pangkajene sub-district. Where the number of applicants for dispensation in 2020 is 239 cases. This figure is very high compared to the previous year in 2019 there were 70 cases. And even worse, out of the 239 cases that filed around 87% or 209 cases, the dispensation of their marriage was granted.

Pangkajene and Islands Regency (Pangkep) data from the high court reported that during the last 5 years there were 3664 divorce cases. This figure increased significantly in 2019 to 921 cases from 541 cases in 2018. This shows that family resilience is not enough. Family resilience can be built if the marriage is supported by mental, mental and financial maturity.

Early marriage is still rife globally. Most cases are found in Southeast Asia and Africa. Around 10 million children aged >18 years have their first marriage in Southeast Asia, while in Africa 42% of the child population are victims of early marriage.

Databoks in 2020 reported that 26.55% of Indonesian women had their first marriage at the age of 16-18 years; 8.19% at the age of 7-15 years.

Several issues on child marriage include factors driving the increase in child marriage, its impact on education, the occurrence of domestic violence, the impact on reproductive health, children born and mental health of children, as well as legal assessments related to child marriage. through education Great curiosity, love of adventure and challenges and dare to try new things without careful consideration. If the family's educational foundation is not supportive, this often leads them to free sex. To prevent this dishonorable behavior or with more apprehensive conditions such as pregnant out of wedlock. Marriage is done even though they are not old enough.

3. Literature Review

3.1. Theoretical approach in maturing education Age of marriage

There are various theories and approaches in maturing marriage age education. Here are some theories that are often used in this context:

Erik Erikson's Psychosocial Theory: This theory posits that individuals go through a series of stages of psychosocial development throughout their lives. In the context of maturing marriage age, the relevant stage is "intimacy vs isolation" in which individuals seek intimate and mutually bonding relationships with partners. Understanding this theory can assist in understanding the emotional and social development associated with marriage (Erikson, E. H, 1968) [19].

John Bowlby's Attachment Theory: This theory emphasizes the importance of the emotional bond between child and parent in childhood, which shapes the pattern of connection and resilience in adult relationships. In the context of maturing the age of marriage, an understanding of this theory can assist in understanding how childhood experiences influence an individual's ability to form healthy bonds with partners (Bowlby, J. 1969) [16].

Rational Choice Theory: This approach views marriage as a rational decision based on consideration and evaluation of the benefits and associated costs. This theory emphasizes the importance of information, preparation, and careful consideration before deciding to marry (Becker, G.S. 1981) [3].

Communication Theory: Communication theory draws attention to the importance of effective communication in the marital relationship. This involves listening skills, emotional expression, conflict management, and open communication between partners (Burlison, B. R., & Denton, W. H, 1997) [9].

3.2. Marriage Age Maturity Concept

Maturity of marriage age is an important process in helping individuals understand the responsibilities, commitments, and preparations needed before deciding to marry. Marriage maturity education aims to provide accurate and comprehensive information about aspects of married life, including interpersonal relationships, communication, financial planning, gender roles, reproductive health, and related legal issues.

Child marriage is a violation of human rights. It is a grave threat to the life, health and future prospects of young girls. Marriage to girls can cause complications related to pregnancy and childbirth, and in developing countries it is the leading cause of death among girls aged 15-19 years. Married girls are also exposed to sexually transmitted infections, including HIV. For a girl, marriage can mean the end of her education, can sideline her chances of getting a job or career, and can steal from her basic life choices. (United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). (2012).

Child marriage occurs when one or both partners are under the age of 18. Child marriage is a violation of Article 16(2) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which states that "Marriage must be entered into only with the free and full consent of the prospective spouse." Article 16 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) states that women should have the same rights as men to "freely choose a partner and marry only with their freedom and full consent", and that "the engagement and marriage of a child shall be without legal consequences" (United Nations Population Fund, and United Nations Children's Fund, 2010).

While most countries allow girls to marry before they turn 18 with parental or other consent, poverty often underlies child marriage. The humanitarian crisis exacerbates girls' vulnerabilities. Some parents truly believed that marriage would secure their daughter's future, while others saw their daughter as a burden or even a commodity. Child marriage hinders the certainty that girls have healthy and productive lives. Child marriage directly threatens health and well-being: complications from pregnancy and childbirth together are the leading cause of death among adolescent girls 15-19 in developing countries.

Social Change: social change focuses on how society

develops and changes over time. In the context of maturing the age of marriage, this theory can be used to understand how social values and norms develop, thus influencing people's views on early marriage (Lenski, G. E. 1966) [26].

Ecological Systems: This theory emphasizes the interaction between individuals and their environment, including the social, physical, and cultural environment. In the context of maturing the age of marriage, this theory can help understand how the social and cultural environment influences people's views and decisions about early marriage (Bronfenbrenner, U. 1979) [7].

Planned Behavior (Theory of Planned Behavior): This theory focuses on how individual behavior is influenced by beliefs, attitudes, and social norms. In the context of maturing the age of marriage, this theory can help in understanding the factors that influence individual decisions about the time of marriage (Ajzen, I. 1991) [1].

Human Capability Approach: This theory emphasizes the importance of a human-centred approach in assessing development and well-being. In the context of maturing the age of marriage, this theory can assist in identifying and overcoming barriers that hinder people's access to education and opportunities to grow and develop fully before marriage (Sen, A. (1985) [43].

Reproductive Health and Sexuality: This theory is closely related to the maturing age of marriage, as it covers issues such as access to reproductive health information, reproductive rights, and the importance of ensuring physical and mental health for married individuals (World Health Organization (WHO), 2006)

4. Methodology

Research approach: This study uses a qualitative research approach where qualitative research as a scientific method is often used and carried out by a group of researchers in the field of social sciences. In this study the researcher makes a complex picture, examines words, reports details from the views of informants and conducts studies in natural situations.

Research Place: the author determines the research location is the place where the research will be carried out. In this case, the research location is in Bungoro District, Pangkajene and Islands District (Pangkep).

Data Source: In this study, the primary data source in the form of words was obtained from interviews with selected informants covering various matters related to marriage and early marriage. While the secondary data sources in this study are data from previous studies

Study Faculties: This research study is focused on education for the community through community service by the Muhammadiyah Makassar University dedication team on an ongoing basis.

Data Collection Techniques: The researcher used the interview method to gather data related to the results of the education provided by the Unismuh Makassar service team. Data analysis techniques: Data analysis version of Miles and Huberman, that there are three flow of activities, namely data reduction, data presentation, and drawing conclusions or verification (Miles and Huberman in Husaini Usman and Purnomo Setiadi Akba: 2009) [23].

5. Result

5.1. Understanding of marriage

People's understanding of marriage varies significantly

because it is influenced by cultural values, traditions, religion, and other social factors. Some common understandings about marriage in society:

1. **Understanding of Religion:** In many societies, religion plays a key role in understanding marriage. Several religions have specific views on the purpose and nature of marriage, as well as the rules governing marriage. For example, in Islam, marriage is considered a legal bond between a man and a woman for the purpose of forming a family and following religious teachings.
2. **Aspects of Culture and Tradition:** Understanding of marriage is also heavily influenced by local culture and traditions. For example, in some cultures, marriage is considered a large ceremony involving many families and communities, while in others, it is more intimate and simple.
3. **Gender Roles:** The understanding of gender roles in marriage can also be different. Some societies have very rigid and structured roles for men and women in marriage, while others are increasingly adopting a gender equality approach in marital relations.
4. **Concept of Family:** Understanding of family and the role of marriage in forming a family varies. Some societies see the family as the core unit in society, while others may have a broader concept of the family and include members of the larger family.
5. **Social Implications:** Marriage can have significant social implications in society, such as forming alliances between families or social groups, maintaining social status, or regulating inheritance and property.

Whereas in the community's understanding of marriage there are differences as well as the people in the Bungoro sub-district based on the results of the research stated:

"Marriage is a legal bond, yes, many people love to marry their children quickly because their children are considered big and maintain free association"

5.2. Factors driving the occurrence of early marriage

Early marriage occurs when one or both partners marry at a very young age, usually under the age of 18. This phenomenon is influenced by various social, cultural, economic, and other factors. The following are some of the driving factors that can influence the occurrence of early marriage along with their references:

1. **Cultural Factors and Traditions:** Some cultures and traditions value early marriage as a social norm or traditional value. Values such as maintaining chastity, stabilizing family ties, or maintaining cultural identity can influence positive perceptions of early marriage (Rosenblatt, P. C., Karis, T. A., & Powell, B. 2024) [39].
2. **Economic Factors:** In some poor areas, early marriage can be considered as a family strategy to reduce the economic burden by "entrusting" daughters to the husband's family who is responsible for their care and maintenance (Nour, N. M. 2006) [33].
3. **Gender Inequality:** In some societies that still adhere to patriarchal views, early marriage can be seen as a way to control and limit women's roles and rights (Choe, M. K., Thapa, S., Mishra, V., & Hodgkinson, K. 2005) [15].
4. **Education:** Unavailability or limited access to formal education may cause some people to choose to marry at an early age as an alternative (Santhya, K. G., & Jejeebhoy, S. J. 2007) [45].

5. **Social Pressure:** In some societies, social pressure from family, society, or religion can be a motivating factor to marry at an early age (Chambers, R. 2014) ^[12].

5.3. Impact caused by early marriage

Early marriage has complex and often negative impacts, especially on those who marry at a very young age. Some of the impacts include:

1. **Physical and Psychological Health:** Early marriage is often associated with higher physical and psychological health risks for young couples. Women who marry at a very young age are at higher risk of complications from pregnancy and childbirth because their bodies are not fully mature. In addition, stress and the heavy burden of marriage at a young age can cause mental health problems, including depression and anxiety (Santhya, K. G., & Jejeebhoy, S. J. 2015) ^[45].
2. **Limited Education and Economic Opportunities:** Early marriage often deprives married couples of their education, especially for women. As a result, opportunities to get a decent job and achieve economic independence are limited (Raj, A., Saggurti, N., Winter, M., Labonte, A., Decker, M. R., & Balaiah, D. 2010) ^[38].
3. **Poverty Survival:** Early marriage tends to increase the risk of poverty for young families. Limited resources and great responsibility for young couples often prevent them from coping with economic challenges (Malhotra, A., Warner, A., McGonagle, A., & Lee-Rife, S. 2011) ^[28].
4. **Potential for Gender Discrimination:** Early marriage can increase gender inequality and injustice in marital relations, because younger women often have limitations in making choices and decisions in their married life (Nour, N. M. 2009) ^[44].
5. **Low Child Welfare:** If early-aged couples have children, these children are often at high risk of health and educational problems due to a lack of adequate care and support from the young parents (Godha, D., Hotchkiss, D. R., Gage, A. J., & Cappa, C. 2013) ^[21].

5.4. Community education on marriage to provide an understanding of the risks of early marriage

Public education about early marriage is an important key in efforts to reduce the prevalence of early marriage and the negative impacts associated with it. This education involves disseminating accurate information and making people aware of the importance of delaying marriage until a more mature age and understanding the implications of early marriage. The following are several community education approaches that can be used and their references:

Public education and campaigns: Implement public campaigns with various media, such as posters, advertisements and brochures, to disseminate information about the risks and negative impacts of early marriage. This campaign should target various groups in society, including parents, youth, and community leaders (UNICEF, 2015) ^[45].

Sexual and Reproductive Education: Providing comprehensive sexual and reproductive education to adolescents and potential partners can help them understand the importance of delaying marriage until a later age and make better decisions about their sexual health (United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) 2014).

Community and Religious Leader Engagement: Involving community and religious leaders in early marriage education

efforts can help spread a stronger message and be accepted by society, as they have great social influence and trust (ICRW, 2017) ^[24].

Formation of Support Groups: Establishing support groups for youth and families affected by early marriage can help them to share experiences and obtain necessary information and assistance (Loaiza, E., Liang, M., & Cabral de Mello, M 2017) ^[27].

School-Based Approach: Integrating material on early marriage and its health risks in the school curriculum can help awaken young people to the importance of postponing marriage and emphasize the importance of education (Population Council, 2015) ^[36] type of religious coping behavior or rituals of the participants. Furthermore, the act of worship by the heart produced one sub-theme which is "reliance on Allah SWT (*tawakkul*)". The worship by the tongue was furthermore analyzed into two sub-themes which are "recitation of supplication (*du'a*)" and "recitation of the Quran". While for the worship by physical act was explained by one theme which is performing sunnah (supplementary) prayer.

Here are some important points in maturing marriage age education

1. **Communication and interpersonal relationships:** Education on maturing the age of marriage should cover effective communication skills and the importance of building healthy relationships with partners. This includes the ability to express feelings, understand each other's needs, and resolve conflict in a constructive way.
2. **Financial preparation:** Entering marriage requires careful financial preparation. This education should include budget planning, family financial management, and an understanding of the importance of saving, investing and insurance in building financial security.
3. **Reproductive health and family planning:** This education should provide accurate information about reproductive health, contraception and family planning. Couples must understand their choices and have enough knowledge to make informed decisions about when and how many children they want.
4. **Gender roles and equality:** Education on the maturity of marriage should emphasize the importance of gender equality and promote respectful and just relations between husband and wife. This involves an understanding of rights and responsibilities in marriage, as well as a rejection of domestic violence.
5. **Emotional commitment and preparation:** Getting married requires a long-term commitment and good emotional preparation. This education should help potential partners understand the concepts of love, commitment and dedication required in marriage, and prepare them for the challenges and changes that may occur in the relationship.
6. **Legal and administrative issues:** Education on maturing the age of marriage should provide knowledge about laws and regulations related to marriage, such as marriage requirements, legal rights and obligations of spouses, as well as legal protection against harassment or abuse in the household.

Some of the people who previously did not know the impact of underage marriage and marriage rules in the law because of limited knowledge could be provided with provisions so

they could avoid underage marriages. From the dedication carried out by the Unismuh Makassar Team, it provides an explanation of the impacts of early marriage and the rules of marriage. The main knowledge given to the people in the Bunggoro sub-district is to make them aware that children's education is the most important, so that many of the youth there do not drop out of school and marriage is not an excuse to run away from problems.

Maturity of the age of marriage must start early, through formal education in schools, government programs, and community programs aimed at prospective brides. Preparing individuals thoroughly before they marry can help reduce the risk of divorce, increase marital happiness, and build healthy and sustainable families.

7. Conclusion

The conclusion from education on maturing the age of marriage is the importance of providing the right information and understanding to the public, especially teenagers and potential partners, about the risks and negative impacts of early marriage. Through education on maturing the age of marriage, the community is expected to be able to: Understand Risks and Negative Impacts, Make Better Decisions, Reduce Early Marriage Rates, Improve Welfare and Future Potential. Education on maturing the age of marriage is an important step in efforts to reduce early marriages and encourage wiser choices in marital relations. This education is carried out in a comprehensive and sustainable manner, involving various parties such as the government, community institutions, schools and families to achieve effective results in dealing with the issue of early marriage.

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