

PARENTAL INTERPERSONAL SKILLS AND ADOLESCENT ATTITUDES TOWARD EARLY MARRIAGE

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Early marriage is one of the cases with the highest incidence in Indonesia involving teenagers under the age of 19 years. Based on religious court records, 1711 cases were recorded, or an increase of 35% compared to the previous year. Many factors cause this, namely from oneself and environmental factors. Adequate guidance in educating children is an important role that can be carried out effectively by parents. **Aims:** This research aims to determine the influence of interpersonal skills and parental knowledge on teenagers' attitudes toward early marriage. **Method:** This research method is descriptive analytical research with a cross-sectional approach. This research was attended by 60 respondents, consisting of 30 teenage respondents and 30 respondents who were parents of teenagers. Data collection was carried out by filling out a questionnaire which was analyzed using the Chi-square test. **Results:** The results of the study show that parents' interpersonal skills in responding to early marriage are in the sufficient category, there is an influence of parents' interpersonal skills in responding to early marriage on teenagers' attitudes ($p=0.001$), there is an influence of parents' latest education on parents' level of knowledge about early-age marriage. ($p=0.001$). **Conclusion:** The research conclusion shows that there is an influence of interpersonal skills and parental knowledge on teenagers' attitudes in responding to early marriage, and the parents' latest education has an influence in responding to early marriage.

Keywords: Parental Interpersonal Skills, Adolescent Attitude, Early Marriage,

INTRODUCTION

A marriage is classified as an early marriage if it is carried out by a man or woman aged <19 years. Out of 1,266 marriages in Malang Regency, 162 cases involved marriages under the age of 20 that occurred in Singosari District (Department of Communication and Information of Malang Regency, 2022). Malang Regency ranks number one as the area with the highest cases of early marriage. Preliminary study data also found that one of the villages in Singosari District, Gunungrejo Village, has a high rate of early marriage, predominantly

involving both male and female junior high school graduates.

In a period of one year there were 1,455 cases of applications for underage marriage dispensation originating from Malang Regency (Surabaya High Religious Court, 2022). Meanwhile, on a national scale the number of requests for dispensation for underage marriage by teenagers in 2021 reached 65 thousand cases, and fell to 55 thousand cases in 2022 (Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection of The Republic of Indonesia, 2023). The high number of cases of early marriage in Indonesia making this country ranked second in the

ASEAN region and ranked 37th out of 158 countries in the world (Adelia & Sulistiawati, 2023).

Based on Indonesian Law No. 16 of 2019, Article 1 concerning Amendments to Law No. 1 of 1974 on Marriage, Article 7 paragraph (1) states, "Marriage is only permitted if the man and woman have reached the age of 19 (nineteen) years." Regarding marriage dispensation requests, it is also explained in Article 7 paragraph (2) that "In cases where there is a deviation from the age requirements as referred to in paragraph (1), the parents of the male party and/or the parents of the female party may request a dispensation from the Court for urgent reasons accompanied by sufficient supporting evidence." BKKBN (National Population and Family Planning Board) suggests that the ideal age for women to marry is between 20-35 years (Adelia & Sulistiawati, 2023). Marriages that occur before the ideal age can be referred to as early marriages.

The high incidence of early marriage in Indonesia is still a problem that has not received an effective solution. Singosari sub-district is the second largest location in Malang district with high rates of early marriage. Gunungrejo is the village that has the highest rate of early marriage in Singosari sub-district. Although has made various efforts to establish several regulations regarding early marriage; however, the rate of early marriage in this village is still high. Several factors that influence early marriage, including the economy, peers, one's own desires, family encouragement/coercion, and the consequences of pregnancy outside of marriage (Sari, et al., 2020). Other factors that can cause someone to marry early are education, environment, mass media, culture and knowledge (Arimurti & Nurmala, 2017)

The impact of early marriage also affects spouses who cannot meet or do not know their rights and obligations. This happens because they still have a

high level of selfishness, leading to arguments, conflicts, and disputes between spouses, which can result in divorce (Tampubolon, 2021). One of the impacts of early marriage is psychological problems.

Not only does it impact mental health, but physical health problems are also part of the consequences of early marriage. The impact of underage marriage varies, including reproductive health issues, where young women who marry early are at risk of experiencing high-risk pregnancies (Muntamah et al., 2019). This can occur because their reproductive organs are not yet fully mature.

Parents and teenagers have different situations in the process of social development in society. Parents often use their childhood experiences as guidance in raising their children (Fatmawati, 2016). Interpersonal communication is one of the factors that influence people's views in addressing early marriage, including the family environment factor. Interpersonal communication is a form of communication between two individuals. Interpersonal communication always leads to mutual understanding or mutual influence between individuals (Djamadin, 2004 in Putra, 2013). A good relationship between parents and teenagers will certainly have a positive impact. Effective communication between parents and teenagers plays a crucial role in influencing the character and sexual behavior of teenagers (Putra, 2013). Parents who possess a high level of knowledge are expected to effectively communicate the risks and consequences of early marriage.

Based on this background, the researcher was interested in conducting a study at Islamic Junior High School Al-Ma'arif 03 in Gunungrejo, Singosari District, because the majority of teenagers in Gunungrejo attend school here and related to the cases of early

marriage that are rampant among junior high school students. Based on the explanation provided above, the researcher proposes the idea in a study with the title “Parental Interpersonal Skills And Adolescent Attitudes Toward Early Marriage”.

METHODS

This study is a quantitative research design with an analytical observational type of research. The research method used is a cross-sectional approach. In this study, the researcher aims to investigate the effect of the relationship between parents' knowledge and interpersonal communication on teenagers' attitudes toward early marriage. The subject are teenage (male and female) students in Islamic Junior High School Al-Ma'arif 03 Singosari, Malang who have never received health education in the form of counseling, and other methods regarding early marriage before.

The population in this study includes all students, totaling 80 individuals, as well as their parents. After selection, there were 60 respondents who met the inclusion criteria, and were used as samples in this study. This research sample consists of the students and their parents who had children with a history of being married off to early age marriage. The sampling method applied in this study is non-probability sampling through purposive sampling, where participants are chosen based on predefined criteria. The inclusion criteria include students in grades 7-9 who are willing to participate, have at least one living parent, and whose parents are also willing to take part in the research. The exclusion criteria eliminate parents with children who have experienced early marriage.

The data for this study were gathered from primary sources, specifically through responses to a

questionnaire that had undergone validity and reliability testing. Validity testing is used to measure the effectiveness of a measuring instrument or medium in obtaining data (Janna & Herianto, 2021). In social research, questionnaires are one of the research instruments that need to undergo validity testing to ensure that the questions provided to respondents are valid. The questionnaire items act as a data measurement tool. An item is considered valid if the calculated r-value (r count) is higher than the r-table value. Alternatively, by looking at the two-tailed significance table, a question is considered valid if the p-value is less than 0.05.

Meanwhile, reliability testing is conducted after validity testing. Unwavering quality testing is utilized to decide the consistency of a measuring instrument, i.e., whether the measuring device remains steady in case the estimation is rehashed (Janna & Herianto, 2021). In the event that a variable shows a Cronbach's alpha more prominent than 0.60, it can be concluded that the variable is dependable or reliable in measuring (Ghozali, 2016). Unwavering quality tests conducted, the research instruments consist of two types of questionnaires. One for parents, which includes questions about the basic concept of early marriage and its impacts, and one for teenagers or students, which concerns interpersonal communication conducted by parents and the attitudes shown by the teenagers toward early marriage.

Information examination in this pponder utilizes univariate and bivariate analysis. Univariate investigation is the method of analyzing information from each variable within the question that arises. In differentiation, a bivariate examination is utilized to analyze the relationship between parents' information and interpersonal communication with teenagers' demeanors toward early marriage. To examine the relationship between these categorical variables, a

Chi-square test is conducted. The results are considered critical in the event that the p-value is less than 0.05, demonstrating a relationship between parents' information and interpersonal communication with teenagers' states of mind toward early marriage.

Ethics

This research was conducted with the approval of the Institutional Review Board from Health Research Ethics Committee, Faculty of Medicine, Brawijaya University and was conducted in accordance with the ethical principles stated in the Declaration of Helsinki (Approval Number: IRB No. 205/EC/KEPK/08/2023) which ensures that all protocols follow moral guidelines for conducting research on human as subjects.

Members were given an exhaustive depiction of the study's objectives, strategies, conceivable dangers, and focal points before enrollment. We have

obtained the data both orally and in written form. The study's members were made mindful that their support was completely voluntary but that they might withdraw at any time without any repercussions.

We obtained each participant's informed consent prior to collecting any data. Written informed consent forms were signed by each participant and filed in compliance with IRB regulations. The consent form explained the study's objectives, how the data would be used exclusively for research, and how their information would be kept private.

RESULT

Researchers collected data once on teenage respondents. Meanwhile, data collection on parent respondents was carried out by bringing parent respondents directly to the Village Office and collecting data door to door.

Table 1. The influence of parents' interpersonal skills on teenagers' attitudes

Teenagers' Attitudes about							P-value
Interpersonal Communication Skills	Early Marriage				Total		
	Negative		Positive				
	n	%	n	%	N	%	
Bad	14	46.7	2	6.6	16	53.3	0.001
Enough	11	36.7	0	0	11	36.7	
Good	3	10	0	0	3	10	
TOTAL	28	93.4	2	6.6	30	100	

Based on Table 1, of the 30 parent respondents, 46.7% had poor interpersonal skills and only two teenagers had a positive attitude. The opposite was also shown by three parents who had good interpersonal skills, none of the teenagers

showed a negative attitude. From the test results, data were obtained that there was an influence of parents' interpersonal skills on teenager's attitudes about early marriage in Singosari District, Malang Regency (p=0.001).

Table 2. Relationship between work and parental knowledge

Work	Parental Knowledge				Total		P-value
	Low		High		N	%	
	n	%	n	%			
Farmer	1	3.3	1	3.3	2	6.6	0.755

Work	Parental Knowledge				Total		P-value
	Low		High				
	n	%	n	%	N	%	
Private Sector	2	6.6	1	3.3	3	9.9	
Laborer	1	3.3	0	0	1	3.3	
Laborer	4	13.4	6	20	10	33.4	
Housewife	6	20	8	26.6	14	46.6	
TOTAL	14	46.6	16	53.3	30	100	

Table 3. Relationship between last education and parental knowledge

Educational History	Parental Knowledge				Total		P-value
	Low		High				
	n	%	n	%	N	%	
No Education	2	6.6	0	0	2	6.6	0.001
Elementary School	12	40	3	10	15	50	
Junior High School	0	0	8	26.7	8	26.7	
Senior High School	0	0	5	16.7	5	16.7	
TOTAL	14	46.6	16	53.4	30	100	

Based on Table 2, of the 30 respondents, 14 of them were parents as housewives (46.6%), the majority of whom were highly knowledgeable. The majority of parents with working status are laborers (33.4%), 6 out of 10 of whom are classified as highly knowledgeable. From the results of the tests carried out, data were obtained that there was no relationship between employment and parental knowledge about early marriage in the Singosari District, Malang Regency ($p=0.755$). Based on Table 3, the majority of parents' education is elementary school (50%). The data also show that of the 30 respondents, the majority of parents with low knowledge had a history of elementary school education (40%). Parents who have no education (6.6%) are generally classified as having low knowledge. A total of eight people with a history of junior high school education and five high school students showed that the overall results were classified as highly knowledgeable. Through the test results, data were obtained that there was a relationship between recent education and parental knowledge about early marriage in the Singosari District, Malang Regency ($p=0.001$).

DISCUSSION

Parents' Knowledge of the Concept of Early Marriage

According to the table above, the results show that there are 14 parents with low knowledge and 16 parents with high knowledge. This indicates that the number of parents with low knowledge is still quite high and is almost equal to the number of parents with high knowledge. Many factors can influence a person's knowledge, including education, occupation, age, interest, experience, information, and cultural environment (Mubarak, 2012 in Rahmawati et al., 2019). Based on this statement, it can be inferred from this study that there are factors that might influence parents' knowledge about early marriage, such as their educational background and occupation. The results show that the majority of parents' highest education level is elementary school (50%).

Early marriage is still prevalent among low-income and less-educated communities (Atik & Susilowati, 2022). Higher education levels are expected to produce higher knowledge outcomes. The data also show that the majority of parent

respondents are mothers who are not working or are housewives (46.70%). Meanwhile, the highest percentage of employed parents are laborers (33.30%). One's experience and work environment can affect one's knowledge (Mubarak, 2011 in Atik & Susilowati, 2022). From this it is seen that the exchange of information among individuals through discussions about early marriage can potentially increase someone's knowledge.

However, in the age of the internet, where accessing and providing information is easy, it is possible to enhance the knowledge of individuals who are unemployed or have a low educational background. The internet is beneficial in helping individuals access a variety of available information sources, thereby providing additional knowledge (Sasmita, 2020). Thus, based on the identification of parents' knowledge about early marriage, the results indicate that the majority of parents who were respondents have high knowledge, with a difference of two points higher than respondents with low knowledge.

Interpersonal Communication between Parents and Adolescents regarding Early Marriage

Based on Table 1, the majority of interpersonal communication relationships between parents and teenagers who discuss early marriage are classified as poor (53,3%). Work and economic demands can hinder communication between parents and children (Baharuddin, 2019). Working parents are at risk of minimal interaction with their children, so that communication, especially regarding early marriage, can be hampered. Parents' communication patterns are influenced by the level of education and parental attention (Maudyta, et al., 2023). Based on the identification of interpersonal communication between parents and children, it can be concluded that the majority of people are in the poor category. Unfortunately, this study did not examine further the factors that might

relate to or influence interpersonal communication between parents and teenagers about early marriage.

Adolescent's Attitudes about Early Marriage

The results of the analysis showed that the majority of teenagers had a positive attitude. Adolescents' negative attitude toward early marriage is their attitude of agreeing with early marriage, while a positive attitude is their attitude of disapproving/rejecting early marriage. Personal experience, the impact of other individuals, culture, social media, educational and/or religious institutions, as well as emotional factors are factors that can influence a person's attitude (Azwar, 2010 in Yudiansah, 2022). This research looks at the state of mind of youngsters who may be impacted by the impact of other individuals who are considered critical, to be specific guardians.

Parents' understanding can influence the type of parenting style applied to children, giving rise to differences in characteristics and parenting styles, if this is not correct, it can influence the child's decision (Wardani, et al., 2023). The results of the previous analysis show that the majority of parents' knowledge about early marriage is high with the majority's communication being poor; however, the results of identifying teenagers' attitudes show that in Malang Regency the majority have a positive attitude about early marriage.

However, it should be noted that to change a person's attitude, skills in providing guidance and communication are also necessary, particularly in the parent-child relationship. This shows that there's no relationship between parents' instructive foundation and teenagers' demeanors toward early marriage. This further strengthens the statement that an individual's attitude can be influenced by the knowledge they possess. Although, in some conditions, an individual's knowledge can also be influenced by other

factors, such as the source of their knowledge, whether from their own learning process, the surrounding environment, or even family, particularly parents.

The majority of the positive attitudes shown in this study certainly undergo a process before an adolescent makes a decision on how to respond to a particular issue. This study only examines adolescents' attitudes, which may be influenced by the impact of significant others, namely parents, through parental knowledge and interpersonal communication. The study explores parents' knowledge and interpersonal communication to determine their relationship with the attitudes adolescents show toward early marriage. Unfortunately, this study does not examine other factors that may be related to or influence adolescents' attitudes, such as personal experiences, the influence of other significant individuals besides parents, social impacts, mass media, instructive teach, devout teach, and passionate components.

The Relationship between Parental Knowledge and Adolescent's Attitudes about Early Marriage

Based on the research, it shows that teenagers' positive attitudes toward early marriage have nothing to do with low or high knowledge from their parents. These data show that the majority of teenagers' attitudes about early marriage are positive, as many as 28 out of 30 people (93,3%). The results of this study prove that teenagers' attitudes are not related to parents' knowledge.

Low education levels can be a factor contributing to low knowledge (Subekti, 2008 in Hernita, 2021). The majority of parents in this study are classified as having low education and low knowledge about early marriage. Significant relationship is found between adolescents' knowledge about the appropriate age for marriage and their

preference for the ideal age to marry (Taufik, et al., 2018). The knowledge analyzed refers to the adolescents' own knowledge, not that of their parents. Good knowledge among adolescents correlates with a preference for marrying at an ideal age.

Parents with limited understanding, especially regarding reproductive health and children's rights, tend to marry off their children (Nurhajati, 2012 in Taufik et al., 2018). Parents' low knowledge about early marriage tends to lead to early marriage actions, which reflect their attitudes based on their understanding. As discussed in the previous chapter, the low level of parental knowledge about the risks, dangers, and impacts of early marriage will influence their decision to marry off their children at a young age. Thus, this statement, which aligns with the previous discussion, shows that an individual's attitude is influenced by the knowledge they possess, and this will vary for each individual depending on the source of information they receive.

So, this statement shows that an individual's attitude is influenced by the knowledge that individual has. Although in some conditions an individual's knowledge can also be influenced by other factors, such as where the knowledge they get comes from, it could be from their own learning process, the surrounding environment, or even the family which is centered on parents.

The Influence of Parental Interpersonal Skill and Adolescents' Attitudes about Early Marriage

Based on Table 1, the results show that the majority of positive attitudes are not influenced by parents' interpersonal communication which is good, sufficient or poor. The table actually shows that teenagers who have the highest positive attitude toward early marriage have a history of interpersonal communication from their parents which is classified as poor (46,7%).

No significant relationship is found between communication patterns and support from close individuals on the knowledge and attitudes of respondents (Cahyani et al., 2021). The study findings indicate that permissive communication patterns have the potential to influence respondents' risky sexual behavior. Based on this statement, the influence of interpersonal communication may also be affected by the communication patterns applied. Interpersonal communication between parents and children can be achieved through three types of communication patterns: authoritarian (strict), permissive (free), and democratic (two-way) (Yusuf Syamsu in Gunawan, 2013).

No relationship is found between the role of parents and adolescent sexual behavior (Hasanah et al., 2020). This may occur because the role of parents is not only limited to good interpersonal communication but should also include providing a foundation of religious education, creating a warm home environment, and imparting an understanding of societal norms of right and wrong. In this study, the communication patterns and the teaching of societal norms of right and wrong that parents apply in daily interpersonal communication with their children, particularly related to early marriage, were not explored in depth.

Great communication channels between guardians and their children can make an air of shared understanding of different sorts of family issues, particularly juvenile issues, and will impact their information, states of mind, and behavior (Atik & Susilowati, 2022). Based on this statement, the better the interpersonal communication between parents and children, the more likely it is to positively impact adolescents' wise decision-making in responding to problems, particularly their views on early marriage.

Parents who play an important role in their child's character development, and

openness between parents and children, can facilitate parents in providing an understanding of early marriage and its potential negative impacts (Hamidah et al., 2023). The role of parents in providing information through communication should be able to prevent adolescents from early marriage, who inherently tend to struggle with self-control and impulses. Based on this statement, the relationship between parents and adolescents becomes one of the channels or factors expected to provide valuable guidance to children, especially regarding early marriage, resulting in positive adolescent attitudes.

However, it cannot be denied that parents' role in educating their children about reproductive health and matters related to early marriage can be hampered by several factors, such as the family's harmonious condition, the intensity of meeting with children due to work constraints, and topics that are still considered taboo to discuss with adolescents. Good parental knowledge, if not accompanied by good communication practices, will not influence changes in adolescents' attitudes. This study has not yet thoroughly examined the roles and communication patterns that parents apply to their children, nor the background or potential obstacles that may arise.

CONCLUSION

Based on the dialog displayed within the past chapter, the following conclusions can be drawn: The majority of parents have a high level of knowledge (53.30%). The analysis results show no relationship between occupation and parental knowledge, with a p-value of 0.755. However, there is a relationship between the highest level of education and parental knowledge about early marriage, with a p-value of 0.000. Most parental interpersonal communication with teenagers is classified as lacking (53.30%). The majority of teenagers show a positive attitude toward early marriage (93.30%).

The analysis results indicate no relationship between parents' last education and teenagers' attitudes toward early marriage, with a p-value of 0.543. This study also shows no relationship between parental knowledge and teenagers' attitudes toward early marriage, as evidenced by a p-value of 0.209. Furthermore, the study does not show a relationship between interpersonal communication and teenagers' attitudes toward early marriage, with a p-value of 0.392. This study concludes that good parental knowledge, without being accompanied by effective communication, may not significantly influence a person's attitude. Meanwhile, a person's attitude can be shaped by their knowledge, which can be obtained from various different sources.

The rate of early marriage in Malang Regency tends to be high, which is also correlated with the high maternal and infant mortality rates. Therefore, collaboration between healthcare professionals and schools or village governments is expected to provide education to the community. Educational institutions and educators should incorporate lessons related to reproductive health, adolescent interactions, and early marriage into their curricula (Lau & Lee, 2019). Village governments should also facilitate access to knowledge about early marriage issues, thereby addressing the root causes of early marriage cases.

Future researchers could analyze other factors, such as adolescents' knowledge, parents' characteristics or backgrounds, parenting styles, and other elements that might influence teenagers' attitudes toward specific issues, particularly early marriage. The data collection methods should also be carefully considered to minimize potential biases. Low levels of parental knowledge about reproductive health and early marriage may influence parents' decisions regarding their children's marriages. Through this research, it is hoped that the community, especially those with teenage

children, will become aware of the importance of avoiding early marriage due to its potential negative physical and psychological impacts.

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