



Research Article

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Gender-Based Problems in Rural Communities: A Case Study

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Abstract

This paper aims to discuss gender issues that still often occur in rural communities in particular, namely the habit of marrying young children by their parents. This habit often contains elements of coercion, child powerlessness, "sexual violence", and deprives children of their freedom to receive education, channel their aspirations for life, and so on. This paper is the result of research in a number of villages in two provinces in Indonesia, namely: West Java and Banten. The reason for choosing the location is because in this area there are still frequent marriages at a young age, and even tend to be maintained. Data was collected by distributing questionnaires to parents who had married children aged 12 -17 years, supported by field observations, and interviews with parents. local formal and informal community leaders. The results of the study found that early marriage was influenced by various aspects, namely: poor family socio-economic background, low family educational aspirations, pressure from the social environment, and low role of local government. From each of these factors, indicators that provide the strongest contribution are identified, namely: indicators of low income levels, and lack of production capital on socio-economic background factors; indicators of low educational aspirations and the location of school buildings far from their places of residence; indicators of maintaining tradition and religion are not prohibited in terms of the social environment; and consistent indicators of the implementation of compulsory education programs and socialization of maternal-child health incentives. These indicators need to be considered in an effort to overcome the problem of young marriage, find out the causes, and convince the negative impact of young marriage.

Keywords: gender, married young, rural, sexual violence, powerlessness, divorce

1. Introduction

Gender-based problems are still common in rural communities in Indonesia with young women always being the victims (Dalimoenthe, 2021). The phenomenon of women working to build roads is often found in one area, while men are tasked with taking care of children at home (Wiasti, 2012; Rahmawati, 2015; Prayitno, 2019; Dewi, 2022). Until now, the assumption that women have to stay at home, take care of children and work in the kitchen is still supported by some people, so they do not try as much as possible to support girls' schools (Junaidi, 2017; Samsidar, 2019; Wiyono, 2020).

Another phenomenon is marriage at a young age, under the age of 17 (Sriharyati, 2012; Khotimah, 2016; Bukido, 2018; Surayya, et al, 2021). Until now, the phenomenon of young marriage still often occurs because of matchmaking by parents. This habit is not practiced by people in developing countries, but also developed countries such as the United States. Data from the Pew Research Center based in California shows that young marriage in 2010-2014 in several states experienced a rapid spike (Irib World Service, 2016). Similar symptoms occur in developing countries such as: India, Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Central African Republic, Mozambique, and others.

In Indonesia, which is the focus of the discussion in this paper, the marriage of young children is still often carried out by parents for their children, especially those in rural areas. Girls are often victims, because their parents have accepted men's proposals in their area, even though she already has a wife. The case of "Noer" is one of them, a girl who has just turned 14 and is currently in the second grade of junior high school. This case the author found in 2020 when buying stationery at the store, and "Noer" worked as a shop assistant after school. Two days later the writer returned to the shop, and Noer was out of work. According to his successor shopkeeper, Noer had quit school and work since yesterday, because he had to marry according to his parents' wishes.

In another case last year, we got to know "Imah" a 14 years old girl who is in the second grade of junior high school. "Imah" is the daughter of a mother who works at our residence, so we know her quite well because she often helps her mother with work. At school, "Imah" is quite smart, always ranks first in class with satisfactory report cards. Once our housemaid asked to stop working, arguing that she was going to marry "Imah" to a man who sold vegetables at the market. The application was accepted because he had received 15 million rupiah as a wedding dowry. When we ask, why are applications accepted and not wait for the child to finish his studies first? The answer is quite surprising, because if rejected, the family is afraid of being criticized by the surrounding community and can be exposed to witchcraft because of it.

The two cases above are a small illustration of the practice of marriage at a young age that still occurs in many rural areas in Indonesia. Although the government has implemented a nine-year compulsory education program for children aged 7-15 years, it has not been able to stop the habit of getting married at a young age, especially in rural areas. Implicit in this habit has an element of coercion against girls, and can be included in one form of "sexual violence", in the form of traditional sexual nuanced practices that harm or discriminate against women" (UU RI 35/2014; WHO, 2017; PopMama, 2022). The element of coercion is in the form of depriving children of their rights to a safe and optimal education, the powerlessness of the child against the wishes of his parents, the unpreparedness of the child to marry, and so on. The reality is that marriage at a young age often increases divorce rates, young women are widowed, the number of children without a father increases, children's health and education are not guaranteed, and so on. The case of the two girls above, for example, is currently divorced from her husband, widowed, and has children. In one place on the coast of Java, the term "Ngeranda" is known, namely the behavior of youth who are looking for a partner towards women who are already widowed (Syamsurrizal, 2016). This term arises because young people find it difficult to find female partners who are single and never married, but are faced with women around them who are married, separated, and widowed.

This paper aims to discuss the habit of marrying young which is still often done by parents to their daughters. Various negative impacts arise from this young marriage, both for mothers and their children, including: high divorce rates, low child nutrition, high infant mortality rates, children's

education is not guaranteed, and so on (Burchinal, 1960; Rosydah, Hernawaty, & Rafiyah, 2021; Pratiwi, 2020; Wardani, 2021, Dalimoenthe, 2021). The data shows that the number of marriage dispensations for early childhood in 2020 reached 65,301, much higher than in 2019 which was only 25,281. In 2021 the number of cases of child marriage dispensation decreased to 54,894, but in absolute terms this number is still higher than in 2019 (VOA Indonesia, 2021).

It is suspected that the implementation of marriage at a young age is influenced by various factors, including: socio-economic background, family environment, social environment, and government. These factors can work independently, but are also interrelated affecting the implementation of marriage at a young age, under the age permitted by the state of 19 years (UU RI No 16 of 2019). The novelty of this research is that it will direct its analysis also to the indicators that provide the strongest and weakest contributions to each factor, then draw conclusions and submit recommendations for solving the problem of underage marriage.

2. Literature Review

In simple terms, marriage can be interpreted as an emotional and legal bond between two people to live life together. Many cases in several countries legalize same-sex marriage (BBC News, 2015; Diputera, 2016; Kurniawan, 2017; European Parliament, 2021), but generally society refers more to the emotional and legal bond between a man and a woman (Duvall & Miller, 1985; Regan, 2008; Olson & Defrain, 2000; RI Law No. 1/1974). In Indonesia, although society generally supports the form of marriage between a man and a woman, it has various forms and problems, including: marriage between a man and a woman of different religions, contract marriages, marriages outside of marriage, and others. (Amri, 2020; Makalew, 2013; Gunawan, 2013; Asiah, 2015; Maripah, 2016; Oktavia & Purwaningsih, 2018; Razak et al, 2018; Izat, 2020).

One of the customs that is still widely practiced in rural areas is the marriage of children who are still young, not yet 17 years old, and are often referred to as early marriage. This type of marriage has long been practiced by some people, especially those who live in rural areas. In 2019, for example, the national number of early marriages was recorded at 10.82% of the total marriages. However, despite showing a downward trend to 10.35% in 2020, and 9.23% in 2021, the number of marriages is still relatively high (Indonesian Central Statistics Agency, 2021), as seen in the provinces of Jambi, Bengkulu, West Java, East Java, South Kalimantan, Central Kalimantan, West Sulawesi, recorded relatively high numbers (Indonesian Central Statistics Agency, 2021; Ratnasari, Kartika, & Normelan, 2021). Although the Law of the Republic of Indonesia has set a minimum age limit of 19 years for boys and girls to get married, there are often differences in interpretation between religious and state laws in viewing this young marriage. From an Islamic point of view, many opinions state that marriage at a young age is not prohibited as long as the child is in puberty and is ready to carry out the reproductive process (Rifiani, 2011; Ali, 2015; Muftisany, 2016; Almahisa & Agustian, 2021).

Various studies have shown that there are factors that influence marriage at a young age, including: family socioeconomic background, parental education, social environmental pressures, and the role of local government. These factors may work independently, but also overlap to affect child marriage. From a socio-economic perspective, early childhood marriages are carried out by parents who are classified as rich or poor. A number of cases show that marriages are carried out by parents who are classified as rich for their young children, for various reasons (Desideria, 2017; Diputera, 2018; Rahayu, 2021; Nugraha, 2022). A case that occurred several years ago, where an entrepreneur married a 12-year-old girl, was then subject to criminal sanctions for violating the child protection law (Sudrajat, 2016). However, it was not a deterrent, rumors circulated that the businessman in question would remarry a 7 (seven) year old girl as a marriage that was not registered at the Office of Religious Affairs as a government representative (Kompas.com, 2020). Marriages that are not registered are considered valid according to religion and/or custom, but are not announced to the general public, nor are they officially registered with the state registration agency, namely the KUA (Office of Religious Affairs) for Muslims and the Civil Registry Office for non-Muslims (An-Nur,

2021).

However, marriages at a young age are mostly carried out by families from poor economic circles. The marriage carried out by the entrepreneur above is basically motivated by the life of the bride who comes from a family that is classified as poor. Child marriage is not only considered to lighten the burden on the family, but also the hope that children can help their parents' lives. Ironically, many parents marry off their young children to men who are already married, such as wives number 2, 3, and others. It is certain that the marriage of a young girl is juxtaposed with that of a much older man, even two to four times the age of the child. This situation is not only carried out by men who are categorized as being able or rich, but also from those who have various employment statuses, even though they have low income levels.

From socio-economic factors there are several interrelated reasons that cause parents to marry off their young daughters, including: not having production land as a source of work, low income levels, limited job opportunities, and low work skills. Most of the rural population usually live from work as laborers (farm workers, market workers, construction workers, casual workers, etc.) with low skills and low income levels. They live in poverty, poverty, and subsistence: just living their daily lives (BER Staff, 2018; Wijaya, 2018; Wulandari & Laksono, 2020; Anna-Ashari et al, 2020).

Another factor is the low formal educational background of parents in rural areas. Low education raises the level of educational aspirations which is also low, and is constrained by the existence and distance of schools which are far, relatively difficult geographical conditions, and limited means of transportation. Education is considered not to change life, only waste productive time and increases family income (Marchetta & Sahn, 2015; Haliati, Kasim, & Yusuf, 2017; Simanjuntak, Nugroho, & Kusai, 2020). Children are more involved in supporting the family's economy, helping work in the fields, maintaining stalls, selling food, and others.

The social environment is also one of the factors that influence the implementation of marriage at a young age. A citizen or group is often inseparable from the influence of culture, traditions, customs that are supported by the community. If that happens, they tend to be perceived as social deviations, do not get along and are in a state of conflict with their social environment (Paul & Horton, 2006; Koentjaraningrat, 2018). The influence of the social environment is included in the behavior of marriage at a young age, where parents cannot refuse a man's proposal to his daughter who is just growing up. Non-formal leaders (especially religious leaders) often cannot avoid getting married at a young age, because they are considered not prohibited by religion, even though they have not met the minimum requirement of 19 years (RI Law No. 16 of 2019). Marriage at a young age is not only based on the desire to maintain community habit patterns, but is also often based on the needs of the workforce and family lineage (Dumilah, Fariji, & Petralina, 2019; Mawarni, et al, 2019; Nurma & Nurmala, 2020; Nurmala, 2020).

Another factor thought to influence young marriage is the role of local government. More than thirty years ago the government launched a compulsory basic education program for children aged 7-15 years, and provided financial assistance for students. However, the dropout rate is still relatively high, one of which is due to marriage at a young age (Indonesian Central Statistics Agency, 2021). Its implementation is not accompanied by strict sanctions, so it is less binding on children's education. Many parents send their children to school because it is free, they get tuition assistance. but not accompanied by the child's future goals. Parents do not consider children's education to provide improvements in children's lives. This assumption is reinforced by the large number of children around who do not work, even though they have completed primary, secondary, and even higher education. It is more realistic if the child helps work to earn an income. In fact, there are still many parents in rural areas who think that the life of a child, whether he is rich or poor, has been determined by God Almighty.

Another role of local government that is suspected of influencing young marriage is the provision of Community Health Centers (CHC) in each sub-district covering several villages. CHC is a health service facility for the community and individuals supported by health workers. In essence, CHC not only organizes activities and/or a series of health service activities aimed at improving,

preventing, curing disease, reducing, and restoring individual health, but also activities to maintain and improve health, prevent, and overcome health problems for families, groups, and communities. (Regulation of the Minister of Health of the Republic of Indonesia No. 43/2019). CHC performs various functions, including as a vehicle for health services and education in the health sector. In this context, CHC has communicative, preventive, and persuasive functions, including related to aspects of young marriage by considering biological, psychological, social, cultural, and spiritual factors.

The above factors are thought to influence the occurrence of young marriage in rural areas. Then, what is the reason for parents to marry off their young daughters, even forcing their children to comply with their wishes? Even though children are not ready to build a family, they still want to hang out with their peers, they still want to go to school, they still want to develop themselves, and so on. Various studies show that there are at least 6 (six) reasons for parents to marry off their young children, namely: reducing the family's economic burden, helping parents' income, parents' future support, family prestige, social pressure, and family successors (Mawardi, 2012; Mubasyaroh, 2016; BER Staff, 2018; Wijaya, 2018; Rahayu & Wahyuni, 2020).

Marriage at a young age can be motivated by economic aspects, such as: reducing the burden on parents, helping family income, manpower needs, managing a business, helping work as laborers (construction laborers, market workers, agricultural labourers, sand diggers), and others. From a psychological point of view, it is considered to increase the family's prestige, because the child is proposed to, and avoid the ridicule of old maids. Young marriages can also occur because of social pressure, where parents are forced to accept someone's proposal for their daughter (even by a married man) to maintain the tradition, and if they refuse, they are afraid of getting witchcraft. Lastly, marriage at a young age can occur because of the desire to get a successor, so that the lineage can be maintained.

Marriage at a young age often has a negative impact. Children do not yet have the emotional readiness and mentality to build a family, both in communicating and adapting. Often there is no understanding in marriage, intimacy and relationship satisfaction, as well as expressions of affection (Wilson & Filsinger, 1986; Uecker, 2012; Sari & Synarti, 2013; Qasim & Mazaffar, 2021; Jayawardana, 2022). This causes incompatibility, stress, divorce, and makes young women widowed at a young age (Zuhrina, 2020; Fahrezi & Nurwati, 2020; Wowor, 2021). Marriage at a young age often has a negative impact on the physical aspects of mothers and young children, in the form of: weak pregnancy conditions, miscarriage of the prospective baby. children are poorly cared for, malnourished, susceptible to disease, and relatively high infant mortality (Wilson & Oswald, 2005; Regier & Pardue, 2007; Puspasari & Pawitaningtyas, 2020; Sekaraya & Nurwati, 2021; Marrypedia, 2022).

The theoretical framework developed in this paper is shown in figure 1 below.

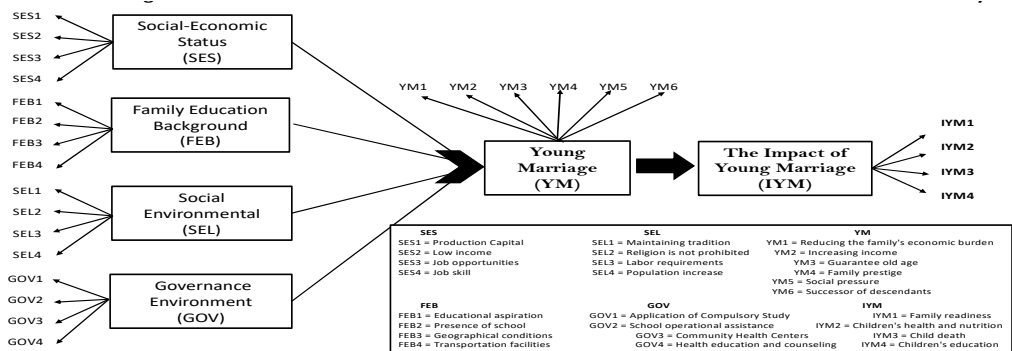


Figure 1: Theoretical framework gender - based problems in rural communities: A case study

3. Methodology

This paper is part of a study on young marriage in 2021 in 10 villages in one of the provinces in Indonesia, namely: West Java. The studied villages are located on the outskirts of the city, some of which are in remote areas with relatively difficult and limited geographical conditions and transportation facilities, and are categorized as poor. The location of the study was determined because the community still married children (especially girls) at a young age, under 17 years old. The research sample was addressed to parents in the village who had married their daughters in the last 10 years, which were sourced from village office data and information from local residents. The number of samples of parents obtained was 126 people with the number varying between villages, the lowest was 8 (eight) and the maximum was 18 parents.

Data was collected through the distribution of questionnaires, interviews, and local village/religious office documentation sources. Previously, the questionnaire had been tested to determine the level of validity and reliability of the questions, using the product moment criteria from Pearson's and Cronbach's (Sugiyono, 2018). In filling out the questionnaire, field officers conducted direct face-to-face questions and answers to the sample of parents, without intending to direct the answers. Information on research was also carried out through interviews with formal and informal community leaders in the village related to the focus of the problem.

The analysis was carried out using the SEM technique of the LISREL 8.70 program to determine the magnitude of the effect of exogenous variables on endogenous variables (Joreskog & Sorbom, 1993; Ferdinand, 2002; Hair et al, 2010; Haryono & Wardoyo, 2013). The SEM technique can be used because it meets the requirements for a minimum sample size of 100 people (Kusnendi, 2008; Ghazali, 2014). Analysis was also conducted to determine the contribution of the indicators of each variable studied.

4. Results

The distribution of the questionnaire resulted in answers from 126 parents, consisting of 78 (61.9%) paternal status and 48 (38.1%) maternal status. A total of 19.8% of parents have never graduated from elementary school, 23.8% have graduated from elementary school, 9.5% of people have graduated from junior high school, 21.4% have not finished junior high school, and the remaining 25.4% have never received formal education. However, almost all of them have learned to write and read Arabic from non-formal educational institutions and individuals in their villages. The occupations of the sample varied, consisting of 11.9% as land-owning farmers, 51.6%, as laborers (farmers/builders/laborers in the market/sand diggers), 4.8% opened a shop, 6%, traders in the market, 7.9 % of motorcycle taxi drivers, 1.6% of security officers, 1.6% of mobile traders, 4.8% of housemaids, and the rest do not have permanent jobs. Most said they were natives of the village, except for a few migrants from outside the village.

The sample of parents stated that they had married their daughter once, and there were more than once. A total of 7.9% of parents stated that they married girls aged 10-12 years, as many as 35.7% aged 13-14 years, as many as 34.9% aged 15-16 years, and 21.5% aged 17 years. Most of their children had elementary and junior high school education (graduated/did not graduate) and learned to write and read Arabic in their village. Although the government implemented a nine-year compulsory education program (6 years of elementary school and 3 years of junior high school) for children aged 7-15 years, more children dropped out of school and did not complete their education, especially girls. Furthermore, table 1 below shows the answers of parents regarding economic background, education, social environment, and the role of local governments which directly or indirectly affect early child marriage.

Table 1: Percentage of Parents' Answers to Factors Influence of Early Marriage Implementation (N=126)

No	Questions	%					Total
		SD	DI	DO	AG	SA	
1.	Low income because they do not have production capital.	-	6.3	14.3	36.5	42.9	100.00
2.	Children don't go to school because parents' income is low	-	11.1	11.9	55.6	21.4	100.00
3.	Residents in the village are faced with limited job opportunities.	4.8	9.5	27.0	43.7	15.0	100.00
4.	Lack of skills makes it difficult to get a job	-	-	7.9	58.8	33.3	100.00
5.	Low family aspirations for education	4.0	11.1	17.5	46.0	21.4	100.00
6.	Not going to school because the school is far from home	4.0	17.5	15.9	30.1	32.5	100.00
7.	Difficult geographical conditions resulted in not attending school.	4.8	9.5	20.6	35.0	30.1	100.00
8.	Transportation is limited to reach the school location.	3.2	17.5	15.1	38.1	26.1	100.00
9.	The marriage of young children maintains the tradition.	19.8	23.8	26.2	22.2	15.9	100.00
10.	Children who have reached puberty are not forbidden by religion to marry.	12.7	19.1	15.9	35.7	16.6	100.00
11.	Early marriage can meet the needs of the workforce.	11.1	25.4	31.7	19.1	12.7	100.00
12.	Early marriage increased the number of villagers.	19.1	23.0	34.9	11.9	11.1	100.00
13.	Compulsory education reduces the number of early marriages in the village.	27.0	27.7	17.5	15.9	11.9	100.00
14.	Assistance with school fees increases children's enthusiasm for education.	17.5	21.4	19.8	28.6	12.7	100.00
15.	Community Health Centers carries out the function of preventing early marriage.	12.7	17.5	35.7	19.8	14.3	100.00
16.	Community Health Centers provides health education and counseling.	22.2	19.8	36.6	11.9	9.5	100.00
17.	Early marriage reduces the burden on the family.	7.9	10.4	19.8	45.3	16.6	100.00
18.	Early marriage helps increase family income	3.2	19.1	23.8	33.3	20.6	100.00
19.	Child marriage guarantees old age.	-	28.6	11.9	43.6	15.9	100.00
20.	Marriage of young children increases the prestige of the family.	3.2	19.8	9.5	48.4	19.1	100.00
21.	Citizens' applications for children cannot be rejected by parents.	7.9	21.4	9.5	41.4	19.8	100.00
22.	Early marriage of children as the successor of offspring.	9.5	15.9	34.9	27.8	11.9	100.00
23.	Many divorces from child marriages.	12.7	9.5	10.4	44.4	23.0	100.00
24.	Poor child health and nutrition due to early marriage.	-	12.7	19.1	52.3	15.9	100.00
25.	Many infant deaths are due to young marriages.	3.2	12.7	23.8	44.4	15.9	100.00
26.	Divorce due to young marriage does not guarantee children's education.	6.3	15.9	33.3	36.6	7.9	100.00

SD = Strongly Disagree DI = Disagree DO = Doubt AG= Agree SA =Strongly Agree

Source: Gender- Based Problems in Rural Communities: A Case Study, 2021.

Items 1-4 in table 1 show that most (79.4%) of the sample of parents have a low income level and live a poor life. They say that the lack of production capital (particularly the ownership of paddy fields/gardens) results in low income levels, supported by low skills and limited other job opportunities. Jobs in agriculture, housemaid, or others may earn a steady income with relatively low wages or profit sharing, but other jobs as laborers, motorcycle taxi drivers, sand diggers, etc. tend to earn irregular incomes, depending on luck. others use their services. This economic background is thought to be one of the factors affecting young marriage, especially for their

daughters.

Items 5-9 on family educational background. A total of 67.4% of the sample of parents with low formal education background, only elementary and/or junior high school (graduated/not graduated). Low education is due to their parents tend to support low aspirations, coupled with the location of the school which is relatively far from their residence, difficult geographical conditions, and limited means of transportation. They also think that they do not know the benefits of education to change family life, let alone considered relatively long. Parents prefer to send their children to receive relatively short religious education, which is organized by certain religious institutions or individuals. This low educational background is thought to be one of the factors that parents tend to marry off their young children.

It is suspected that marriage at a young age in the village is also influenced by the social environment (items 10-13). Most (73.3%) of the sample of parents support young marriage to maintain the tradition, only a small percentage (15%) do not agree. 65.0% stated that this event was not prohibited by religion for children who had reached puberty, on the contrary 19.1% thought that the minimum age for men and women to marry was 17 years. On the other hand, 57.1% of parents studied stated that one of their children's marriages was intended to help with work, cultivate land or other things. As many as 57.9% also stated that marriage at a young age can increase the number of villagers, so that community life can be maintained. However, there are 23.8% of parents who do not support this opinion, and 34.1% are more undecided.

Items 13-16 relate to the role of the government which is suspected of influencing young marriage in the village, particularly in the fields of education and public health. The government has implemented a compulsory education program for elementary and junior high schools (Nine years). This program is able to increase the participation of children aged 7-15 years to attend school, but the dropout rate is still high. Many children do not continue their education, for various reasons, including: the location of the high school level school which is relatively far away, the lack of education and transportation costs, the low educational aspirations of children, and others. The continuity of child marriage is caused by these reasons coupled with psychological reasons and other social pressures. Most of the answers (54.7%) of parents clearly indicated that the implementation of compulsory education was not a factor in the high dropout rate, and the tendency of parents to marry off their young children. Although children get free education and financial assistance to buy books, school uniforms, shoes, transportation, and others, it does not increase the enthusiasm of parents to maintain their children's education.

In the health sector (items 17-20), although a community health center (CHC) has been established in every sub-district, a small proportion (41.3%) of parents tend to show that they are still not functioning effectively and go to the village to communicate and promote public health. and development. individual. As many as 21.4% answered that health workers are still less intensive and massive in providing health education and counseling, especially the risk of marriage at a young age, both in terms of communication harmony and adaptation of partners, the possibility of divorce, poor maternal health, poor physical condition of children and malnutrition, high infant mortality rates, and so on.

The previous item is part of the factors or variables that are suspected of influencing early marriage, items 17-19 show the reasons for doing early marriage by parents. A total of 61.9% of the sample of parents answered that the marriage of their children can reduce the burden of family responsibilities. As many as 53.9% answered that the occurrence of child marriage was caused by low family income, so that the family felt it was reducing the heavy burden of daily life. In addition, 59.5% stated that early childhood marriage is also expected to be a place of refuge in old age, as many as 67.5% answered that it increases family prestige because it is proposed and avoids being labeled an old virgin. As many as 61.2% considered it because they could not reject the request from the residents. inside or outside the village, and is not prohibited by religion. A total of 67.7% stated that child marriage is the successor of offspring and family continuity.

Validity-Reliability, Test Requirements Analyst, & GOF Model

It is necessary to know the level of validity and reliability of the indicators for each variable. Confirmatory Factor Analysis (CFA) is a measurement model to determine the relationship between latent variables and observed indicators. The measurement model seeks to confirm whether the observed indicators are truly a reflection of the latent variable. The final CFA results obtained based on the analysis of validity and reliability became the basis for knowing the model fit or not (Hair et al, 2010; Ghozali, 2014). The model will show the operationalization of variables into measurable indicators formulated in the form of equations and/or certain path diagrams. Validity test to determine whether the indicators in the model form the latent variables studied by comparing the loading factor of at least 0.50, if it is greater (> 0.50) then the indicator is valid. The reliability test was measured by construct reliability (CR) and extracted variance (VE). Good reliability if $CR > 0.70$ and $VE > 0$. Test the validity of the measurement to determine whether the indicators in the model form the latent variables studied by comparing the loading factor of at least 0.50, if it is greater (> 0.50) then the indicator is valid. The reliability test is to find out how well the measuring instrument can produce relatively the same results if repeated measurements are made on the same object, measured by construct reliability (CR) and extracted variance (VE) and error variance (ei). A construct has good reliability if $CR > 0.70$ and $VE > 0$ (Joreskog & Sorborn, 1993; Ferdinand, 2002; Hair et al, 2010; Haryono & Wardoyo, 2018).

Processing of research data shows that socioeconomic background (SES) as an exogenous variable consists of indicators of production capital, low income, job opportunities, and work skills. The exogenous variable of family educational background (FEB) consists of indicators of family aspirations, school presence, geographical conditions, and means of transportation. The social environment (SEL) as an exogenous variable consists of indicators of maintaining tradition, not prohibited by religion, labor needs, and population growth. The exogenous variables of the government's role (central and regional/GOV) consist of indicators of the implementation of compulsory education, education cost assistance, community health centers (CHC), education and health counseling. The endogenous variables that cause or reason for carrying out early marriage (YM) consist of indicators of reducing the family's economic burden, increasing family income, guaranteeing old age, family prestige, social pressure, and successors. The endogenous variables of the impact of marriage (IYM) consist of indicators of family readiness, child health and nutrition, infant and child mortality, and child education. Overall, it shows $CR 0.9906 > 0.70$ and $VE 0.8018 > 0.50$ which means it meets the level of validity and reliability (table 2).

Table 2: Test Validity – Reliability

Variables	SLF	CR	VE	Conclusion
Social-Economic Status (SES)	0.87 – 0.95	0.9906	0.8018	Valid & Reliable
Family Education Background (FEB)	0.79 – 0.98			Valid & Reliable
Social Environmental (SEL)	0.82 – 0.91			Valid & Reliable
Governance Environment (GOV)	0.87 – 0.95			Valid & Reliable
Young Marriage (YM)	0.89 – 0.97			Valid & Reliable
The Impact of Young Marriage (IYM)	0.80 – 0.94			Valid & Reliable

Source: Gender- Based Problems in Rural Communities: A Case Study, 2021.

To find out whether the research model built meets the criteria well, one of them needs to be linearity test by looking for the regression line equation of the independent variable x to the dependent variable y . The linearity test is shown by comparing the significance set with the analysis (Sig). If the results of the significance of 0.05 with $=0.05$ shows a linear relationship (Hair, 2010; Ghozali, 2014). Table 3 below shows the F value of the data obtained with the conclusion that the variables studied have a linear relationship.

Table 3: Linearity Test Results

Linear Relationship	F	Sig.	Conclusion
Social-Economic Status (SES)*Young Marriage (YM)	1.9034	0.1763	Linear
Family Education Background (FEB) *Young Marriage (YM)	0.3692	0.4481	Linear
Social Environmental (SEL)*Young Marriage (YM)	2.6155	0.0609	Linear
Governance Environment (GOV)* Young Marriage (YM)	1.3451	0.1188	Linear
Young Marriage (YM)*The Impact of Young Marriage (IYM)	2.1684	0.0760	Linear

Source: Gender- Based Problems in Rural Communities: A Case Study, 2021.

The results of the validity-reliability test and the linearity test are the basis for determining whether the model built meets the criteria well or not? The evaluation of the fit model is carried out based on all or most of the assessment criteria and the significance of the parameter estimates for each item (Byrne, 1998). This assessment can be obtained based on the goodness of fit statistical model generated by LISREL. The most common model accuracy index is the Chi-Square value to assess whether the model is fit or not. However, it is recommended to look at other parameters for model fit assessment, including: RMSEA, GFI, AGFI, CFI, and so on (Byrne, 1998; Hair et al, 2010). The results of the parameters and the suitability of the model are presented in table 4 below.

Table 4: Results of SEM Model Suitability Criteria

Goodness-of-Fit	Cutt-off-Value	Results	Conclusion
RMR(Root Mean Square Residual)	$\leq 0,05$ atau $\leq 0,1$	0.0251	Good Fit
RMSEA(Root Mean square Error of Approximation)	$\leq 0,08$	0.0210	Good Fit
GFI(Goodness of Fit)	$\geq 0,90$	0.93	Good Fit
AGFI(Adjusted Goodness of Fit Index)	$\geq 0,90$	0.92	Good Fit
CFI (Comparative Fit Index)	$\geq 0,90$	0.95	Good Fit
Normed Fit Index (NFI)	$\geq 0,90$	0.94	Good Fit
Non-Normed Fit Index (NNFI)	$\geq 0,90$	0.95	Good Fit
Incremental Fit Index (IFI)	$\geq 0,90$	0.97	Good Fit

Source: Gender- Based Problems in Rural Communities: A Case Study, 2021.

The results above indicate that the model built in whole or in part meets the criteria of good or good. Furthermore, an analysis of the structural relationship between the variables studied and the amount of the indicator contribution of each variable is carried out, as shown in figure 2. Figure 2 shows the magnitude of the coefficient of influence of the exogenous variables on the endogenous variables. The results of hypothesis testing indicate that the exogenous variables SES, FEB, SEL, and GOV, have a significant positive effect on the endogenous YM variable. Furthermore, the YM variable effects on the IYM variable.

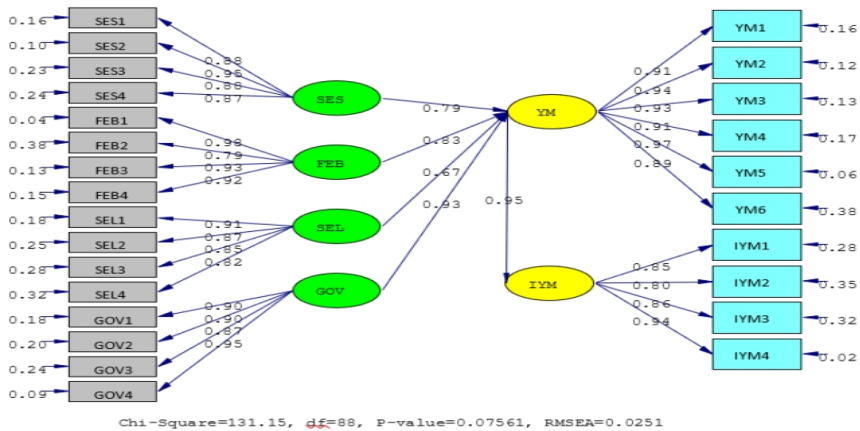


Figure 2: Standardized Loading Factor

Source: Gender- Based Problems in Rural Communities: A Case Study, 2021.

Table 5: Hypothesis Test Results

Hypothesis	SLF	T - Count	Conclusion
H ₁ SES → YM	0.79	22.23	Significantly Positive
H ₂ FEB → YM	0.83	24.11	Significantly Positive
H ₃ SEL → YM	0.67	21.81	Significantly Positive
H ₄ GOV → YM	0.93	27.03	Significantly Positive
H ₅ YM → IYM	0.95	27.37	Significantly Positive

Source: Gender- Based Problems in Rural Communities: A Case Study, 2021.

5. Discussion

The results of the analysis show that the socio-economic background of the family has a significant positive effect on the implementation of early marriage, with a coefficient value of 0.79 > 0.05. It can be seen that the strongest indicator that contributes to this variable is the low level of family income with a coefficient value of 0.95, followed by a lack of production capital and low skills (each worth 0.88, and finally limited employment opportunities at 0.87). Of course, the contributions made by these indicators are interrelated, especially the low level of income and the absence of production capital. The implication is that these two indicators are important to pay attention to if you want to avoid or prevent young marriages from taking place in rural areas.

The main production capital of most of the rural population is working as farmers on land or village land owners. The lack of agricultural land causes them to work for profit sharing or earn a certain daily wage. This amount of income is far from sufficient, it tends to be subsistence to just survive on a daily basis. Fortunately, the natural environment is generous in providing the necessities for free to obtain the needs of vegetables and/or fish. However, this kind of life is far from supporting the welfare of the family. Efforts to increase income, improve the welfare of the community, can be an entry point to eliminate the habit of marriage at a young age. In this context, it is necessary to pay attention to the provision of arable rice fields for the poor, through the distribution of village-owned land (ulayat land/customary land/or other) as well as the implementation of the transmigration program in the form of moving people from densely populated areas to other areas that are still

sparsely populated. Providing other job skills training is very difficult to implement, given the low level of education and the limited variety of jobs available.

Another factor or variable is the family's educational background. It can be seen that the indicator of low educational aspirations gives the strongest contribution to the incidence of underage marriage in rural areas, with a coefficient value of 0.98. This contribution is followed by geographical conditions and the availability of difficult and limited means of transportation, especially for the continuity of children's education. Elementary and junior high school facilities may be available, but are considered far from where they live. With conditions of poverty, difficult geography, and limited transportation, it becomes an obstacle for children to continue their education. Ironically, the financial assistance provided by the government is often used to meet the family's daily consumption needs, not for the purposes of children's education.

Explicitly to reduce the incidence of marriage at a young age is also related to the need to increase the aspirations of families towards children's education. Various persuasive actions are indeed needed to increase this effort, especially by involving intensively, massively and directed by formal and informal figures in the countryside. An example is the role of religious leaders who are often role models for villagers. Indeed, religion does not forbid the marriage of young children, as long as they have reached puberty. However, facing various negative impacts that can be experienced by children, both in terms of mental, psychological, social, physical, health, and so on for mothers and children, it is better if this form of marriage is postponed until the child is an adult. The future of children who marry young is often uncertain, they are more likely to experience failure, divorce, and produce young women who are widowed.

The pressure of the social environment also has an influence on young marriage in rural areas. The indicator that contributes the strongest value to this environmental pressure is maintaining tradition, at 0.91, followed by the indicator that it is not prohibited by religion. Social pressure causes a citizen to be unable to refuse an application to a child who is just starting to experience menstruation. Sometimes this social pressure is accompanied by threatening actions, for example: other people are not allowed to approach the woman, will become an old maid, can be exposed to witchcraft, and others. Persuasive action is needed from formal and non-formal figures to erode the values that live in society, especially often used by married and old men to support polygamy.

Another factor is the role of the government (central and local), particularly development in the fields of education and health. For a long time, the government has implemented compulsory education for children aged 7-15 years. The goal is to improve children's education, and is expected to be an entry point for changing people's lives. In fact, the dropout rate in rural areas is still relatively high, for various reasons. One of them is that there are still many girls who are married off by their parents when they are still in elementary or junior high school, have not or have finished school. Dropouts in the middle of the learning process can happen, and there are no strict sanctions/punishments for those who violate this program. Whereas the government has waived the cost of education and helped certain funds for children's education.

To continue education to the upper secondary level has not been included in the compulsory education program and is free. The implementation of this program is delegated to each region that is considered to have a relatively capable regional development budget, for example an area rich in natural resources. A number of regions are fortunate to have rich resources, so that they can fulfill the constitutional mandate to allocate 20% of regional income, and implement 12 years of compulsory education (six years of elementary school, three years of junior high school, and three years of senior high school). However, there are more areas that can't afford it, so parents have to pay if they want to continue their children's education. But it is difficult for a poor family, because the school is often relatively far from home, the monthly tuition fee is added, plus other needs such as transportation costs.

In the health sector, almost all sub-districts in Indonesia have community health center (CHC) covering a number of villages. One of the goals is to develop the health of people and individuals in rural areas through the provision of professionals and modern medical facilities. However, this forum

is still often concerned with treatment and healing activities for residents who are affected by the disease, mothers giving birth, and others. Education and socialization activities by visiting villages are still rarely carried out, especially efforts to build environmental health, clean living, the dangers of young marriage, child care, child nutrition, and so on. According to doctor Ida, one of the doctors at the CHC studied, the main obstacles are the limited number of medical personnel, relatively large village coverage, difficult geographical location, and limited transportation. The productivity of higher education for doctors, health workers, its distribution, and efforts to increase the number of supporting health centers are still homework to build the health of rural communities, including minimizing the number of young marriages.

It is very interesting to know the reason why parents marry off their young children. Figure 2 shows that there are no significant differences in the indicators that contribute to the causes of early marriage. However, the results of this study found that indicators of social pressure gave the strongest value contribution to the incidence of early marriage, followed by indicators of increasing family income, as the foundation of old age life, reducing family burden, and increasing family prestige. The indicator of lineage succession contributes the lowest to the incidence of young marriage in rural areas. This result shows how dominant social pressure is on young marriage in rural areas.

Parents who have daughters who have reached puberty will be the target of men in the village, not to mention those who are married and have a good economy. Marriage in rural areas often occurs between middle-aged men and young women, as second, third, and so on. Parents find it difficult to get out of this social pressure, especially when faced with the socioeconomic conditions of poor families. Child marriage is expected to provide additional family income. Even child marriage is expected by some parents as a basis to depend on in old age.

This study also found that early marriage has a negative impact on couples and their children. The strongest indicators that contribute to the impact of this early marriage are the education of children who are less secure, followed by high rates of child and infant mortality, the health and nutrition of children and infants who are less secure, and mental readiness to adapt to each other. In particular, the latter is thought to be the cause of the high divorce rate in the villages studied, giving rise to young women who are widowers. This situation has led to other problems in rural areas, such as: increasing the burden on families who were previously poor, children's education is not guaranteed, poor health, and so on.

6. Conclusion

Marriage at a young age is still often done by rural communities, for various reasons. This study found that at least the factors that influence the occurrence of early marriage are poor family life, low parental educational aspirations, pressure from the social environment, and the role of the government (central and regional) which is not yet optimal. All of these factors need to be considered in order to minimize early marriage in rural areas, because it clearly has a negative psychological, social, health and educational impact on mothers and children. One of the most prominent impacts is the high divorce rate in rural areas, as well as the emergence of young widows and children who are not well cared for and nutritious. Education and the future of children also tend to be unplanned and secure.

Young marriage needs to be taken seriously, because it often involves coercion of children, "sexual violence", and depriving children of their rights to get a proper education, socialize with peers, plan a better life, and so on. The roles of formal and non-formal community leaders need to be involved intensively and continuously to socialize the risks of young marriage. On the other hand, the government needs to provide a supporting community health center in each village, and together with universities provide medical personnel and their distribution.

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