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Parent Judgment Factors:
A Phenomenological Study of Early Marriage in Kunjorowesi Village

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Abstract

Early marriage in Indonesia can occur between the ages of 15-19; this is the developmental phase of adolescence. The phase where the psychological maturity of the individual has not been fully formed, and there is no financial security, to reproductive health problems. Underlying the high rate of early marriage in Indonesia cannot be separated from parents' decision-making factors. The research method used is qualitative by looking at it from the side of phenomenological studies, through interviews and the findings at the research location indicate that parents' decision-making in early marriage for their children is due to 1) low economic factors, for parents who have daughters, by marrying their daughters as soon as possible will reduce the burden of living expenses, for parents who have sons, have the hope that after marriage their children will be more independent and financially responsible, 2) avoid committing adultery, parents worry about their child's promiscuity, pregnant out of wedlock, to the shame of the bad stigma of their child's promiscuity in society 3) and the lack of motive to continue their education, parents do not yet have an understanding of the benefits of higher education for life.

Keywords : *Phenomenology, Parent Judgment, Early Marriage.*

INTRODUCTION

Marriage at an early age is a marriage carried out by a man under the age of 19 and a woman under the age of 16 by violating Law no. 1 of 1974, article 7 paragraph (1) states that marriage is only permitted if the man has reached the age of 19. The woman has reached the age of 16. Early marriage means getting married in a state that is still not financially secure and usually still has the status of a student or student (Vabella, 2021). Early marriage is under the age limit of adulthood or marriage involving one or two parties who are still children; marriage is said to be early marriage if one is under 18 (BKKBN, 2012). Early marriage also sometimes occurs because there are conditions that require marriage to occur, for example, pregnancies outside of marriage. Usually, early marriages are carried out by young men and women who have yet to reach the ideal level to enter a marriage because they are not yet emotionally, financially, physically, and psychologically ready (Any, 2019). It can be concluded that early marriage is a marriage carried out by men and women who are immature in age and do not meet the requirements for marriage.

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According to data (Muntamah, 2019), in East Java, there were 58.31% of marriages under the age of 18, while according to UNICEF, BPS, Bappenas, and PUSPAKA UI, 1 out of 9 girls in Indonesia married before the age of 18 (Statistics, 2020). Based on data from the Central Statistics Agency (BPS), there are indications of child marriage in almost all regions of Indonesia. According to Bappenas in Pasuruan district (East Java), it was found that 28.10 % were married at the age of under 18 years. Even in some areas in East Java, it has a high percentage (39.43 %). According to (Sakdiyah & Ningsih, 2013), the highest data on early marriage is in East Java, reaching 39%. The high rate of early marriage in Indonesia is due to several influencing factors, such as culture (Bawono, Setyaningsih, et al., 2020).

The negative impact of early marriage can be detrimental in terms of the development of the reproductive organs, not being ready or psychologically mature, and economic sustainability up to the level of education. Marrying at an early age reveals psychological impacts, such as quarrels, sometimes the economy is still borne by parents, the impact of early marriage on the reproductive organs, which causes various problems, and parents' fear of their children's development into teenagers. Because of that, marriage is used as a solution to maintain honor (Pramesti, Syria et al., 2020). Based on events in the field, early marriage has many negative impacts from various aspects, for example, immature psychology in managing the household, maturity of the reproductive organs that are not yet optimal can cause many complications in the future, economic factors that are not yet established, also contribute.

In the sociology study, if a man is going to apply, he must ask permission from the father/father as the woman's guardian. Hence, the role of the parents as guardians influences the decision to marry early by their children. (Soekanto, 2012: 212) The decision of young women to marry at an early age is inseparable from the role of the family. Directions from parents to their children influence development, including the decision to marry. According to Article 6, a person not yet 21 must obtain permission from both parents to marry. While Law No. 23 of 2002 concerning child protection Article 26, parents are obliged and responsible for caring for, nurturing, educating, and protecting the growth and development of children according to their abilities. Men and women who have not reached the age of 21 marry with the permission of their parents, according to Article 7 of Law No. 1 of 1974 (In Bety, 2017). There are several reasons for early

marriage: reducing the burden on parents, avoiding adultery (promiscuity), and avoiding negative neighbor talk.

According to Law no. 1 of 1974, article 7 paragraph (2), to carry out a marriage, each prospective bride and groom who have yet to reach age 21 must obtain permission from both parents. Based on the law, parents have a role. This study intends to determine the decision-making factors of parents regarding early marriages carried out by their children through a phenomenological study in Kunjorowesi Village, Ngoro Regency, East Java.

The unique conditions of Kunjorowesi Village, the shape of the mountains, and the places where one life are pretty far from each other in mountainous areas; access roads are steep and uphill, located on the border of Ngoro Regency and Pasuruan Regency, making Kunjorowesi Village isolated quite far from the regional center. This is what attracted the attention of researchers to take the research location in Kunjorowesi Village, finding ethnic peculiarities, social conditions, environment, culture, economy, religion, and culture.

RESEARCH METHODS

This research uses a descriptive qualitative method with a phenomenological study. The phenomenological study applies qualitative methods to explore and reveal the similarity of meaning of a concept or phenomenon that becomes the life experience of a group of individuals. The advantage of phenomenological studies is that hidden experiences in individuals' physiological and psychological aspects can be revealed through narration so that researchers and readers seem to understand the life experiences experienced by research subjects. The goal of phenomenological research is to reduce individual experiences of a phenomenon into a description that explains the universal essence of that phenomenon (Cresswell, 2013). The phenomenon that the researcher wants to examine is the phenomenon of early marriage, which is still widely practiced in Kunjorowesi village; based on some interview results, it turns out that one of the factors in the occurrence of early marriage in the village is the role or decision of parents to allow/marry their children. As a researcher, this phenomenon is exciting to study and explore, the factor of parents permitting their underage children to get married, while as we know that early marriage has many negative impacts, one of which is in terms of health, emotions, psychology, economy to a high divorce rate.

This research was conducted from 16 February 2022 to 23 March 2022 in Kunjorowesi, Ngoro Regency, East Java—data collection techniques using in-depth interviews and observation techniques. Informants were selected by *purposive sampling* based on predetermined criteria, while the informants in this study were two village officials, two residents, two parents, and one education expert/school principal. The analysis was carried out using a data reduction process. It was strengthened by the results of other studies as a reinforcement of the results of the data obtained by researchers in the field. Data reduction can be interpreted as an analysis that sharpens, classifies, and directs—the data Presentation to draw valid conclusions. Then the results of this data reduction require a verification process to strengthen the results of the research report.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The role of the family, especially parents, in the process of their child's early marriage

Village apparatus 1 "Here (Kunjorowesi village) there are many who attend the trial, because they marry early," "one month there are three families who attend the trial." " The family consists of the bride and her guardians/parents, whose parents will be questioned by the judge later."

Based on the interview results, it was stated that parents have a role in every decision-making for children to carry out early marriage at an age that is not yet legal. One of the roles of parents is to permit them to become guardians and witnesses in the trial for legalizing early marriage in Indonesia. By government regulations, underage marriages will be held in court so that religious legality is guaranteed. In the future, if a child is in the marriage, the child will get a clear status from the government.

Educational Factors

As a general description, Kunjorowesi Village is located in Mojokerto Regency, at the southern tip of Mojokerto bordering Pasuruan Regency. The Kunjorowesi population is of Madurese ethnicity. The Kunjorowesi village has steep and winding roads on Penanggungan Hill. Residents who live in the upper areas will decline to be able to attend school because, in the upper areas, there are no school facilities for all levels, such as (junior high school and high school) which are only in the lower areas. Based on the data (KKN6, 2022), it was found that a large number of residents had inadequate education in

Kunjorowesi village; many of the residents in the village only graduated from junior high school, high school, and even elementary school graduates. Early marriage and divorce rates in previous years were very high due to their lack of education.

The population of Kunjorowesi consists of 7,210 people consisting of 3,599 men and 3,611 women, with a total of 2,328 household heads. Meanwhile, 309 couples registered early marriages aged 13-19 years. In comparison, the livelihoods of Kunjorowesi residents are factory workers and farmers with an average middle to lower economic level. School distribution is uneven, making it difficult for children living in the mountains to access continuing education. Meanwhile, there need to be more human resources as teachers from Kunjorowesi village, so many teaching staff comes from outside the region. There is one secondary school, namely the Integrated Applied SMKS, which has just graduated 1 class.

Village apparatus 2 "Indeed, there was an early marriage in our village; after graduating from junior high school, we immediately married." Residents of 2 "junior high school graduates go straight to work or get married. " Principal "Villagers lack awareness of the importance of education, as evidenced by the aspirations of most children who want to become truck drivers who do not require higher education."

(Handayani, 2014) adolescents with common knowledge are vulnerable 2.3 times to early marriage, adolescents who are in a hostile environment will be at risk 2.1 times of early marriage, adolescents with low education are more vulnerable 5.4 times to early marriage, adolescents who parents who do not work will be 7.4 times at risk of early marriage. Early marriage is due to family support, religion, not continuing education, and social networks (Sipayung, 2019). These results prove that low education is vulnerable to early marriage.

Economic Factors

While parents who do not work or do not have a permanent job cause the family's economy to be less conducive; this makes parents allow their children to marry early to ease the economic burden (Geraldy, 2022). The desire is to reduce the economic burden on the family because it is assumed that a married woman will be full responsibility of her husband (Jannah, 2012).

Fathers of daughters who marry early "If our child gets married, he can be more established, cared for by his husband or new family."

Several factors influence early marriage, both personal decisions and cultural influences. Family, environment, and habits influence personal decisions in society. Early marriages often occur with girls and children from low-income families who live in rural areas and have low education (Puskapa, BPS, and Unicef, 2020).

The results of these interviews prove that parents marry their children to reduce the economic burden and hope that their children can live more independently without being economically dependent on their parents.

Factors of Promiscuity

Resident 1 "There are many young widows in Kunjorowesi village, the effect of early marriages that have been carried out." Parents who support their children to marry early, "rather than being weird, sis, nowadays, marriage is halal."

The function of marriage that is expected of parents to their children is as a guard so that their teenage children are not tempted and even fall into promiscuous life, such as *free sex*, rape, and so on. The hope of the child's parents can take care of themselves and maintain their family's good name.

A hostile environment (promiscuity) also influences the high rate of early marriage, so marriage is considered a solution to prevent children from promiscuity to getting pregnant out of wedlock. (Geraldy, 2022). (Rahman, 2015) one of the factors of early marriage occurs due to promiscuity, for example, pregnancy out of wedlock.

In line with research conducted by (Jannah, 2012) that early marriage is caused by several factors, namely parents' concerns about children's behavior in everyday interactions and low awareness of education.

According to (BKKBN, 1993), the economic burden that makes parents quickly marry off their children is hoping that the economic burden on the family will decrease; the low level of education and knowledge of parents tend to marry off their children underage, which concerns parents who live in rural areas and have children who are in their teens. To avoid unwanted actions, the parents will marry off their children to maintain the family's good name (Muhammad, 2011). The occurrence of early marriage, according to Hollean, is a family economic problem; the female guardian's parents ask for prerequisites—reduced burden/responsibility for one person.

CONCLUSION

Based on data as well as data exposure and expert opinion, it is shown that the factors that influence parents in making decisions about marrying their children at an early age are due to 1) low economic factors, for parents who have daughters, by marrying off their daughters as soon as possible will reduce the burden of living expenses, for parents who have sons, have the hope that after marriage their children will be more independent and financially responsible, 2) avoiding adultery, parents' worries about their child's promiscuity, getting pregnant out of wedlock, to the shame of stigma wrong promiscuity of their children in the community 3) and the lack of motive to continue their education, parents do not have an understanding of the benefits of higher education for life.

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