



Description of Adolescent Level of Knowledge About the Impact of Early Marriage

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ABSTRACT

Early marriage is not a new phenomenon in Indonesia; it has been prevalent for a long time. Indonesia ranks fourth in the world for the highest number of early marriages, with approximately 1,220,900 girls under the age of 18 getting married in 2018. Based on data from the Central Bureau of Statistics (BPS), the percentage of early marriages in Central Java in 2021 was 21.78%, in Boyolali district in 2020 was 20.29%, and in Sambu sub-district, there were 28 cases of early marriages in 2022. Early marriages have both negative and positive impacts. The negative impacts of early marriages in Sambu sub-district include 28 individuals who have undergone early marriages, 5 pregnant individuals, 8 with a history of Neonatal complications, and 15 individuals who gave birth with a history of Low Birth Weight (LBW). The positive impact of early marriages is to avoid free association. Objective: To identify the level of knowledge among adolescent girls regarding the impacts of early marriages in Candan Village, Sambu Sub-district, Boyolali District. Method: This research is a quantitative descriptive study. The total number of respondents surveyed was 81. The level of knowledge was measured using a questionnaire instrument. The technique used was random sampling, and the study required a duration of 3 weeks. Results: The research findings indicate that the majority of adolescent girls in Candan Village have a moderate level of knowledge regarding the impacts of early marriages, with 43 individuals falling into the "moderate" category, while 28 individuals fall into the "good" category. Conclusion: It can be concluded that the majority of adolescent girls in Candan Village have a moderate level of knowledge regarding the impacts of early marriages.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Early marriage is not a new phenomenon in Indonesia, in fact it has been around for a long time. Early marriage in Indonesia generally occurs among adolescents under the age of 19. Indonesia became the country with the fourth highest early marriage in the world in 2018, around 1,220,900 women aged less than 18 years (1) in (2). Adolescence, the period in which a person is in his twenties who cannot be considered a child but is not yet mature enough to be considered an adult and the transition from childhood to real youth (3).

Adolescents who marry early are not biologically complete. The negative impacts of early marriage include increased maternal and infant mortality, pregnancy complications (preeclampsia, bleeding, anemia, prolonged labor, rupture of membranes) and the risk of transmission of sexually transmitted diseases, the risk of cervical cancer (4). The positive impact of marriage is avoiding free sex and stepping into old age, no longer having small children or toddlers according to them ((5).

Knowledge is related to the impact on early marriage. This means that the higher the knowledge of reproductive health possessed by a person, the lower the sexual behavior before marriage, conversely the lower the knowledge of reproductive health possessed by a person, the higher the sexual behavior before marriage, which is in the results of Krisnadewi's research.

The reasons behind the occurrence of early marriage include avoiding free sex, worrying about not getting a partner soon until old age, wanting to escape poverty and environmental and cultural factors (6). There are several factors that cause early marriage including lack of knowledge, lack of education if a person's education is high it will affect his thinking to refuse to marry at an early age, economics, culture and promiscuity in adolescents. Free association in adolescents can lead to pregnancy out of wedlock which is often the cause of early marriage (7).

Based on the results of a preliminary study conducted by researchers interviewing the Secretary of Candan Village on January 14, 2023, that in Candan Village there had never been socialization about early marriage and its effects, based on interviews with 10 adolescents who did not know the impact of early marriage on health, for example miscarriage, premature pregnancy and children. Those born may experience LBW, due to a lack of information and knowledge so that young women do not know what are the impacts after early marriage.

2. METHODOLOGY

This research is a quantitative descriptive research, with the method used is direct survey. The data collection used in this study used an instrument in the form of a questionnaire. Questionnaire is a data collection technique done by giving several questions or statements to respondents to answer. The variable studied is a description of the level of knowledge of young women about the impact of early marriage in Candan Village, Sambu District, Boyolali Regency.

Sampling in this study used a random sampling technique, which means that all young women were given the opportunity to be studied. The selected sample has inclusion criteria and exclusion criteria in accordance with the research objectives. Operational distribution in this study is Age, Education, level of knowledge of young women about the impact of early marriage. The sample size is 81 people.

3. RESULTS

This research was conducted in Candan Village, Sambu District, Candan Village has an area of 325.7830 Ha and has a population of around 5,305 and the number of young women in Candan Village is 414 people.

3.1. Distributive frequency of adolescents in Candan Village, Sambu District, Boyolali Regency

Table 1. Distributive Frequency of Respondent Characteristics by Age

No.	Age	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1.	12-15 year	29	35.8
2.	16-18 year	45	55.6
3.	19-21 year	7	8.6
	Total	81	100.0

Source: primary data of 2023 researchers

Based on table 1 above the distribution of the frequency of adolescents in Candan Village, Sambu District, Boyolali Regency, shows that the majority of adolescents are 16-18 years old with a total of 45 respondents (55.6%).

3.2. Distributive frequency of youth education in Candan Village, Sambu District, Boyolali District

Table 2. Frequency Distributive Characteristics of Respondents Based on the Education of Young Women in Candan Village, Sambu District, Boyolali Regency

No.	Education	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1.	SLTP	36	43.2
2.	SLTA	46	56.8
	Total	81	100.0

Source: primary data of 2023 researchers

Based on table 2 above the distribution of the frequency of youth education in Candan Village, Sambu District, Boyolali Regency, shows that the majority of young women's education is high school with a total of 46 respondents (56.8%).

Table 3. Distributive Frequency level of knowledge of young women about the impact of early marriage in Candan Village, Sambu District, Boyolali District

variable	Category	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Knowledge level	Good	28	34.6

Enough	43	53.1
Not enough	10	12.3
Total	81	100.0

Source: primary data of 2023 researchers

Based on table 3 above, the frequency distribution of the level of knowledge of young women in Candan Village, Sambu District, Boyolali Regency, shows that the majority of young women have sufficient knowledge of 43 respondents (53.1%).

4. DISCUSSION

4.1. Characteristics of respondents based on the age of young women in Candan Village, Sambu District, Boyolali Regency

The age of the majority of young women is 16-18 years (middle phase). Age can influence one's thinking style and perception in receiving the information obtained. The results of this study are supported by the results of research conducted (8) that age can affect the maturity of a person's thinking, the older a person gets and the experience gained, the more knowledge will be. A person's knowledge can be influenced by the age factor, the majority of respondents in this study were aged 16-17 years, that is, as many as teenagers at this age are included in the middle adolescent category (9). The results of this study are supported by the results of research conducted (10) where this age is a phase of increasingly mature physical growth, sexual maturity involves an urge to know.

4.2. Characteristics of respondents based on the education of young women in Candan Village, Sambu District, Boyolali Regency

The education of young women in Candan Village, Sambu District, Boyolali Regency is mostly high school. The level of education is one of the factors that influence the occurrence of early marriage, education is the basis of knowledge that a person has, where with higher education, the knowledge will also be wider and easier to receive information, so that more information is received, in this case, namely information about health about the consequences and impacts of early marriage on health (11). The results of this study are supported by the results of research conducted (12) Based on the results of the research, most of the respondents with high school education stated that education is guidance given by a person to the development of others towards certain goals that determine a person to act and fill life in order to achieve safety and happiness.

4.3. Young Women Knowledge Level

The level of knowledge of young women in Candan Village, Sambu District, Boyolali Regency, shows that the knowledge of the majority of young women is sufficient. because according to the results of interviews with the secretary of Candan Village that in Candan Village there has never been any socialization about early marriage and its impacts. But now information or communication about the impact of early marriage is easy to find, information is obtained from various media but young women in Candan Village only read the title but do not understand the contents of the information. The above statement is in line with the research conducted (13) Respondents who have sufficient knowledge because respondents only know what early marriage is but do not really understand what are the impacts of early marriage on health. This is also in line with research (14) that young women are still not exposed to information about early marriage and its effects, due to the respondents' lack of experience about sex and the lack of facilities and means for adolescent reproductive health counseling which are still limited, the role of parents and society in providing reproductive health education to children is felt to be lacking.

5. CONCLUSION

This study concludes that the majority of young women in Candan Village, Sambu District are aged 16-18 (middle adolescents), the majority have high school education and the majority have a sufficient level of knowledge.

6. RECOMMENDATION

It is hoped that all young women in Candan Village will increase their knowledge about the impact of early marriage and pay more attention to information about the impact of early marriage.

This research can be used as a reference and material to provide information and socialization, especially about the impact of early marriage

This research can be an additional reference for educational institutions, especially in describing the level of knowledge of young women about the effects of early marriage and for further researchers it can be used as a reference or literature.

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