

## EARLY MARRIAGES TOWARDS THE MATURITY IN MARRIAGES IN SLEMAN REGENCY

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### ABSTRACT

**Background:** The number of maternal mortality on the MDG's in 2015 is 102 per 100,000 live births. It is quite far from the target expected. There are four factors leading to maternal mortality, including; late pregnancy, having too many children and extremely short pregnancy spacing, as well as being too young to conceive. Based on Basic Health Research (2010), Indonesia is included in countries with a high percentage of early marriage in the world (Rank 37<sup>th</sup>). In 2010, there are 158 countries with the minimum legal age of marriage, which is 18 years and over, nonetheless, the condition in Yogyakarta is still beyond that. Indonesian women aged 10-14 years were married as much as 0.2%. The number of young women who get married before the age of 15-19 years old is 11.7%, as compared to men, which is 1.6%. The younger the age at first marriage, the greater the risk encountered in terms of mothers and children's safety, due to the immaturity of young women's uterus to produce children, or because they are mentally unprepared to cope with the pregnancy/ birth.

**Objective:** To determine the relationship between Early Marriage and Maturity in Marriage in Sleman Regency.

**Methods:** The research was a survey. The population in this research was 472 respondents. The technique of sampling selection employed was multistage stratified proportional random sampling. The data analysis used multiple linear regressions.

**Results:** Early marriage is related to emotional maturity. Higher number of early marriage affects on emotional maturity with a contribution of 0.054. Early marriage is related to social maturity. Higher number of early marriage affects on social maturity with a contribution of 0.024. Early marriage is related to the decision of getting married. Higher number of early marriage affects the decision of getting married with a contribution of 0.027. Early marriage is related to marital adjustment. The higher number of early marriage affects marital adjustment with a contribution of 0.044. The largest contribution having relationship in early marriage on the maturity in marriage is the emotional maturity at 0.054.

**Conclusion:** There is a relationship between early marriage and the maturity in marriage in Sleman Regency.

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## **BACKGROUND**

Reproductive health in the International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo, Egypt in 1994 underlines that the health condition is not simply freed from diseases or physical weaknesses, but it includes mental and social aspects related to the operation of the functions, the system and the reproductive process. The target of reproductive health is focused on women throughout their reproductive period, i.e. from women's first time menstruation to menopausal period (Coordinating Board for National Family Planning, 2010a).

One of the objectives of Millennium Development Goal's (MDGs) is by improving maternal with a strategy to lower Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) by three-quarters, from 1990 to 2015. Adolescence is the period between the ages 11-19 years old is a period of transformation or transition from childhood into adulthood. One out of six people in Indonesia is included in the adolescent period (World Health Organization, 2010).

National Family Planning Program recommends the marital age for women is 20, and 25 for men, as adolescents who are equivalent to or more than 20 year-old are mature enough in the decision-making and have adequate productivity capabilities (Maramis, 2005; BKKBN, 2010a).

Healthy family is an important basis in bringing forth prosperous individuals and family, i.e. by preparing the marriage since the initial phase as the family is a production unit of economy, social status and safety for its members, thus a man and a woman are required to be able to run their household and maintain the family status (UNICEF 2000; Nur Hidayati, 2008; and Hassan, 2012).

According to data obtained from the Ministry of Religion, Special Region of Yogyakarta (2013), early marriage in Sleman Regency increases from year to year, as follows: as many as 2 in 2007, 13 in 2008, 37 in 2009, 64 in 2010, 110 in 2011, and 128 in 2012.

The maturity of a person is not lied in their age measurement, but rather on the extent of their maturity level, in which a person is deemed eligible to get married on the grounds that the marriage is a place for someone who has the abilities to take responsibility (Marc & Angel, 2007).

## **OBJECTIVES OF THE RESEARCH**

### **A. General Objective**

To determine the relationship of early marriage and to the level of maturity in marriage in Sleman Regency.

## B. Specific Objectives

1. To determine the relationship between early marriage and emotional maturity in Sleman Regency.
2. To determine the relationship between early marriage and social maturity in Sleman Regency.
3. To determine the relationship between early marriage and maturity in the decision of getting married in Sleman Regency.
4. To determine the relationship between early marriage and marital adjustment in Sleman Regency.
5. To determine the largest contribution of early marriage on maturity in marriage in Sleman Regency.

## RESEARCH METHODS

This research is a survey, descriptive co-relational in nature, namely the research that is aimed to determine the extent of variation in a factor related to the variations in one or more other factors based on co-relational coefficient (Arikunto, 2010).

The population in this research was all young women who are already in wedlock at Sleman Regency. The sampling technique used multistage stratified proportional random sampling with

consideration of geographically distributed population.

## RESEARCH RESULTS

**Table1. Characteristics Of Respondents.**

No	Characteristics Of Respondents	n	%
1.	Young marriage age	13	6,3
	a. 10-13 years old	72	34,6
	b. 14-15 years old	123	59,1
	c. 16-19 years old		
2.	Last education		
	a. Not complete elementary school	2	1,0
		5	2,4
	b. Complete elementary school	47	22,6
	c. Junior high school graduation	151	72,6
	d. Graduated from high school	3	1,4
	e. Graduated college		
3.	Income level		
	a. 1– 2 million	68	32,7
	b. 2 – 3 million	104	50,0
	c. 3 – 4 million	27	13,0
	d. 4 – 5 million	2	1,0
	e. 5 million	7	3,4

Source: Primary data, processed (2015)

Based on Table 1, the characteristics of respondents being observed in this research include early marriage, education level, type of occupation, income level. Based on the table above, on the basis of age during marriage, it shows that 123 respondents (59.1%) were married in their late adulthood (16-19 years old), and as many as 13 respondents (6.3%) were married in their early adolescence (10-13 years old). The age at the beginning of the marriage may influence women's reproductive health. The younger the age of first marriage of a woman, she tends to have

greater risks during labor. In fact, it is not uncommon to result in mortality of the mother or the infants delivered.

The level of education is the highest formal education once attended by the adolescents and is proven by diplomas. The highest education level in 151 respondents (72.6%) is high school/ equivalent graduates and those who did not complete elementary school are 2 people (1%). It suggests that the majority of respondents have completed nine years of basic education, and they even continued to secondary education. Thereby, it can be said that most respondents are deemed to be capable of accepting various knowledge information on health, including reproductive health. The education of women influences a variety of things, such as children's education and the success of family planning and demography programs. Furthermore, Ahmed, Creanga, Gillespie and Tsui (2010) illustrate that women who have completed the primary education nearly five times have the possibility to have skilled midwives at delivery than women who are lack of education. In addition, women who have completed elementary education nearly three times have possibilities to make four times antenatal care visits (K4) and two times have possibilities to use modern contraception compared to women with no education or low level of education.

The type of occupation is activities or daily activities as livelihood of adolescents, measured by the length of time used for main activities done outside the home. The type of work refers to time duration spent on main activities done outside the home. The statistics data show that 81.73% of respondents work for 2 hours a day. None of the respondents work for 10 hours a day. It suggests that adolescents with early marriage have less chance to get a job that ultimately influences the decision-making capabilities of their empowerment.

The level of income is the family's abilities to support their families, as measured by the average household expenditure within a month. There are as many as 104 respondents (50%) have a level of income by 2 million, and 2 respondents (1%) have the income level of 4 million. Based on the Decree of the Governor of Special Region of Yogyakarta No. 252/Kep/2014 on Minimum Wage of Regency/ City Year of 2015, the minimum wage in Sleman Regency is set by IDR 1,200,000,- per month. The results of the research show that most respondents have a level of income by 2 million per month. Therefore, it can be concluded that the majority of respondents have higher level of income than the City Minimum Wage. That is to say that the majority of respondents have a sufficient level of

income. House and William (2002) illustrate that income levels are directly related to health and the authority in making decision associated with the treatment-seeking behavior in order to get maternal health services and maternal survival. The low level of income can inhibit the ability to seek maternal health services and will contribute to the delay in accessing and receiving medical care in the available services spots. With the income level that is already relevant to City Minimum Wage, it can be concluded that the majority of respondents have access to obtain health services and medical care in the appropriate service spots.

**Table 2. The Relationship between Early Marriage and the Level of Emotional Maturity**

Categori	n	%
Good	48	100
Fair	160	76,9
Less	0	0

Source: Primary data, processed (2015)

Table 2 suggests the variable score of the emotional maturity level, the empirical mean value of the entire subject is 208. The percentage for good category is 48 (100%), fair category of 160 (76.9%). The result illustrates that the emotional maturity of some subjects in this research is included in a good category.

The result of statistical tests to determine the relationship between the two

variables that can be shown in the table above shows the value of R count = 0.233 with significance of (p) = 0.00, whilst the regression of T value = 3.439 with significance of (p) = 0.001, thus it is declared that there is a relationship between the two variables. There is a relationship between early marriage and the level of emotional maturity, hence early marriage affects emotional maturity in Sleman Regency.

The value of R2= 0.052 means that the higher age of early marriage affects the emotional maturity with a contribution of 0.052 (5.4%).

**Table 3. The Relationship between Early Marriage and the Level of Social Maturity**

Categori	Kategori	n	%
Good	Baik	18	18,7
Fair	Cukup	190	91,3
Less	Kurang	0	0

Source: Primary data, processed (2015)

Table 3 suggests the variable score of social maturity level, the empirical mean value of the entire subject is 208. The percentage for good category is 18 (18.7%), fair category of 190 (91.3%). Such result illustrates that the social maturity of some research subjects is included in the fair category.

The results of statistical tests to determine the relationship between the two variables can be shown in the table above,

indicating that  $R$  value = 0.154 with a significance of  $(p) = 0.013$ , whilst the regression value of  $T$  count = 2.235 with significance of  $(p) = 0.026$ , thus it is declared that there is a relationship between two variables. There is a relationship between early marriage and social maturity level, hence early marriage affects the social maturity in Sleman Regency.

The value of  $R^2 = 0.024$  signifies the higher number of early marriage affects the social maturity with a contribution of 0.024 (2.4%).

**Table 4. The Relationship of Early Marriage and the Maturity Level in the Decision of Getting Married**

Categori	n	%	
Good	98	47.1	$R$ count = 0,163 $p = 0,009$
Fair	110	52.9	Regression value of $T$ count = 2,373 $P = 0,019$
Less	0	0	$R^2 = 0,027 / 2,7\%$

Source: Primary data, processed (2015)

Table 4 suggests that the variable score of maturity level in the decision of getting married, the empirical mean of the entire subject is 208. The percentage for the good category is 8 (47.1%), fair category of 110 (52.9%). Such result illustrates that maturity in the decision of getting married in the majority of the research subjects is in fair category.

The result of statistical tests to determine the relationship between the two

variables shown in the table above indicates the value of  $R$  count = 0.163 with significance of  $(p) = 0.009$ , whilst the regression value of  $T$  count = 2.373 with significance of  $(p) = 0.019$ , thus it is declared there is a relationship between these two variables. There is a relationship between early marriage and the maturity level in the decision of getting married, hence early marriage affects the maturity level in the decision of getting married in Sleman Regency.

The value of  $R^2 = 0.027$  means that the higher number of early marriage affects the maturity level in decision of getting married with the contribution of 0.027 (2.7%).

**Table 5. The Relationship between Early Marriage and Marital Adjustment**

Kategori	n	%	
Baik	106	50.96	$R$ count = 0,211 $P = 0,001$
Cukup	98	47.12	Regression value of $T$ count = 3,085 $P = 0,002$
Kurang	4	1.9	$R^2 = 0,044 / 4,4\%$

Source: Primary data, processed (2015)

Table 5 suggests the variable score of maturity level of marital adjustments, the empirical mean value of the entire subject is 208. The percentage for the good category is 106 (47.1%), fair category of 4 (1.9%). Such result illustrates that the maturity in marital adjustment in the majority of the research subjects is in good category.

The result of statistical tests to determine the relationship between the two variables shown in the table above indicates the value of R count= 0.211 with significance of  $(p) = 0.001$ , whilst the regression value of T count = 3.085 with significance of  $(p) = 0.002$ , thus it is declared there is a relationship between these two variables. There is a relationship between early marriage and the maturity level in the marital adjustment, hence early marriage affects the maturity level in marital adjustment in Sleman Regency.

The value of  $R^2 = 0.044$  means that the higher number of early marriage affects the maturity level in marital adjustment with the contribution of 0.044 (4.4%).

## **DISCUSSIONS**

This research is aimed to determine the Relationship between Early Marriage and Maturity in Marriage in Sleman Regency. The maturity level in marriage is extremely essential, as in such level. They should prepare themselves to enter the world of marriage. Erikson states that the maturity level in marriage is one aspect of psychosocial development that is enriched to the very end, while according to Allport (1996), a person who has a mature characteristics certainly owns empathy, caring and sense the suffering of others, in

other words, a mature individual will always maintain the balance of shared life, not only support himself, but also seek to keep people outside of him safe, in the sense of maintaining mutual harmony, peace or fraternity leading to solidarity and mutual tolerance.

The research result conducted on married women in Sleman Regency, precisely in 15 regencies suggests that women have a high number of early marriages.

Results of research conducted on married women in Sleman Regency also show there are women with age included in the low category. The result depicts that early marriage on maturity in marriage still needs to be improved because they are inter-affecting. Bowen (1988) states that a person's decision to marry or wed a certain person may also be influenced by several factors, including factors that are realized and unrealized.

Increasing early marriage can be influenced by internal and external factors. If those factors are less supportive, the incidence of early marriage will decrease, but if these factors are supportive, or lack of knowledge is presence, about the meaning of marriage itself or for preparedness, and health is less supportive, then early marriage will increase.

According to Green and Kreuter (2005), the factors affecting the behavior

of early marriage are influenced by three main factors, namely: 1) predisposing factors, include; household economic status, perception and knowledge of parents about the marriage. 2) Supporting factors include; occupation, parents 3) reinforcing factors include; the attitude of community leaders, religious leaders and policy makers.

Efforts should be made to reduce the incidence of marriage at a young age is based on the support of families, especially parents in educating and interacting among the family members. Besides, a person's personality can also become a loophole in establishing oneself from the nature that is according to him/her vulgar and self-absorbed into negative attitude. If, every part of him/her is aware of the ability or weakness themselves into something they cope with understanding so that the minuses or weaknesses are not the reasons to give up easily, even with creativity, an individual with the full acceptance would be able to move the weaknesses and minuses in the positive reactions into the presence of themselves, thus they will be understanding and flexible to address their experiences in order to achieve the successful reduction of early marriage.

Results of research conducted on married women in Sleman Regency show that 0,054 women have a good level of emotional maturity. Such result provides a

description on the level of maturity in marriage.

In essence, teenage life in their world is a beginning of their career life. The preparation of more serious life is expected to recognize the world of work, higher education level and themselves in relation to one another, particularly when they begin to consider seriously on the possibility of entering a married life. A mature and long preparation is to prepare the independence and maturity because the transitional period from teenage hood into adulthood needs a quick process but also requires a good understanding on the maturity of adolescents.

Low maturity level can lead to errors in the decision-making, including mistakes in determining choices will lead to failure in learning, financial loss, time loss and psychological effects for adolescents, such as decreased self-esteem because they feel less capable in facing the circumstances happen.

The research results show that there is social maturity in early marriage towards the level of maturity in marriage, as proven by 0.024. It means that the variable of early marriage affects the maturity level of marriage, especially social maturity. The level of social maturity is a result of behavioral changes that occur with the absence of dependence



on environmental manipulation, and can make decisions about marriage.

The results also suggest that maturity in the decision of getting married affects in early marriage, it is shown in the outcome of 0.027, included in good category. According to Stinett and Kaye (1984, happiness and success in marriage are reflected for reasons behind marriage for individuals, thus in deciding early marriage, it really should be conducted with deep thoughts, in order to create a happy and successful family.

The results also show that marital adjustment also affects in the lives of early marriage, as evidenced by 0.044 women in the good category, thus it is expected that women who in early marriage can adapt in a marriage once they decided to tie the knot.

Minimum age limit for a person to get married is not for no apparent reason, it is very influential on the continuity of the family concerned, especially the women, one of them is found in the Law of Marriage (UUP), stipulates that the age limit to get married is 16 years old for women, it can result in losses as follows: mentally and physically unprepared to become a housewife, largely are dropped out of school after getting married, providing opportunities for women to conceive in their teens with high risk. Therefore, adjustments are really required

to get married on the level of maturity in marriage.

The results show that the level of emotional maturity in early marriage provides the greatest level of contribution that is 0.054 on the maturity in marriage. These results illustrate that level of emotional maturity in the area of Sleman greatly affects the realization of a happy and successful family.

This research is consistent with the hypothesis that there is a relationship of early marriage and the maturity level in marriage in Sleman Regency. Therefore, maturity in marriage in adolescents is required so as to achieve the desired goal.

The age of marriage age will determine the maturity level in marriage. There are several previous studies that empirically prove the age of first marriage is related to the maturity level in marriage. Lampard (2013) in his research shows the initial age of marriage is associated with the risk of divorce. In this case, though it is said that the results reflect the short-term data, but at least it can give an idea on effects of initial age of marriage on the level of maturity in marriage.

The research results by Erulkar (2013) show that women who marry before the age of 15 have little understanding on marriage. Lack of understanding on marriage is related to

things that may refer to the achievement of maturity in marriage.

Research results by Ghalili et al (2012) in this case also show similar results. This research describes that the readiness of age is one of the main factors that determine the readiness of adolescents in the decision of getting married. The readiness age is related to the maturity of age that is considered appropriate before becoming ready to take the decision to enter marriage. It means that the results of these studies show that age is one of the elements affecting the maturity in marriage.

Meanwhile, Lehrer and Chen (2013) in his research state that young women who are not delaying the age of marriage not necessarily strongly affect the stability of their marriage. It is because the instability of marriage is also found in young women who decided to enter marriage after delay in the initial age of marriage. However, results of these studies on the other hand also found that level of marital stability achieved by young women after delaying initial age of marriage is because the level of education and more mature age. Based on this, it can be said that the level of education and initial age of marriage can affect the stability of marriage. The higher the level of education obtained and the more matured initial age

of teenager to get married in this case may affect the level of maturity in marriage.

The maturity level in marriage is related to readiness in taking new responsibilities after marriage. Before moving to the level of marriage or family life, the adolescents are required to prepare everything, thus the families formed would not suffer many problems or divorce, so as to create the family built into a prosperous family (Lehreh 2006; Indarsita, 2006). It therefore shows the importance of the maturity in marriage for a couple who have decided to live a family.

As known, a marriage is ideally entered by a couple who have had the maturity, both biologically and psychologically. Biological and psychological maturity is what provides direct effects on the maturity of marriage, and finally affects the level of reproductive health.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

1. There is a relationship between early marriage and the level of emotional maturity in Sleman Regency with the value of  $R$  count = 0.233 with significance  $(p) = 0.00$ , whilst the regression value of  $T$  count = 3.439 with significance  $(p) = 0.001$ .
2. There is a relationship between early marriage and the level of social

maturity in Sleman Regency with the value of R count= 0.154 with significance (p) = 0.013, whilst the regression value of T count = 2.235 with significance (p) = 0.0026.

3. There is a relationship between early marriage and maturity in the decision of getting married in Sleman Regency with the value of R count= 0.163 with significance (p) = 0.009, whilst the regression value of T count = 2.373 with significance (p) = 0.019.
4. There is a relationship between early marriage and marital adjustment in Sleman Regency with the value of R count= 0.211 with significance (p) = 0.001, whilst the regression value of T count = 3.085 with significance (p) = 0.002.
5. hitung = 3,085 with signifikansi (p) = 0,002.

## SUGGESTIONS

1. This research can be used as a source of information and reference materials related to early marriages towards the maturity in marriages.
2. This research can be used as a depiction of the importance of one's level of maturity, particularly emotional maturity in the determination or decision of all matters regarding the marriage. And

this research can be used as a reference and consideration materials in making good policies for the government.

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