

Relationship of Individual Factors, and Social Factors with Mother's Intention to Continue Early Marriage Tradition in Indonesia

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Abstract

Early marriage is a marriage conducted by teenagers under the age of 20 who are not ready to carry out a marriage. Indonesia ranks 37th in the world and 2nd in ASEAN as a country with high rates of young marriage. Marriage at a young age affects physical, psychological and social health. The tradition of getting married at a young age is still high in Sumenep Regency. Sumenep Regency occupies the first position on the island of Madura with 2692 married women <20 years old. This happens because the tradition of young marriage still continues as a result of low individual understanding and supported by social factors. The purpose of this study was to analyze the relationship of individual factors and social factors to the mother's intention to continue early marriage tradition in Sumenep Regency.

This is a descriptive study using a qualitative approach. The method of data collection was performed qualitatively using in-depth interview and observation methods. The research instruments in this study were observation sheets and interview guidelines with a total of 32 main and key informants. Data analysis was performed using qualitative analysis including content analysis, analytical procedure, and translations.

This study shows that in Sumenep, mothers with history of experiencing young age marriage had the intention to continue the tradition of early marriage. The mothers' intention to continue the early marriage tradition is formed due to the existence of individual factors of past behavior and social factors including education, employment, culture, first marriage and religion.

The conclusion of this study is that early marriage will continue. Therefore, cross-sector collaboration between central and regional governments, community leaders and related agencies (KUA and Health center) to reduce and prevent the occurrence of marriage of young children is required.

Keywords: *early marriage, tradition, child marriage*

Introduction

Early marriage is conducted by teenagers under the age of 20 who are not ready to carry out a marriage. It has

an impact on physical, psychological and social health. According to Abdurradjak, et al (2016) marriages under the age of 20 years lead to pregnancies under the age of 20 years which result in complications. There were 764 cases of complications consisting of pregnancy complications, complications of labor and complications of the baby's delivery⁽¹⁾. The psychological impact arises in 5 out of 6 married women of young age who are not ready to play a role in the household. The social impact arises in 2 out of 6 married women at a young age in the form of a bad relationship with the community⁽²⁾.

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Early marriage is related to maternal death and infant mortality. The World Health Organization (2012) stated that 90% of the 16 million young women who give birth every year are married and 50 thousand of them died. The risk of maternal mortality and mortality of newborns is 50% higher born to mothers of <20 years than mothers of ≥ 20 years⁽³⁾.

Sumenep is one of the districts with highest number of early marriage with brides younger than 20 years in Madura. Based on the results of data collection from BKKBN East Java province in 2017, the number of women who were married for the first time at the age of <20 years was 2692 people⁽⁴⁾. Factors that influence the occurrence of early marriage in Sumenep Regency is the existence of early marriage tradition formed by customary law combined with religious understanding about Islam and the social environment.

Tradition is a hereditary habit. Every tradition carried out by the community usually has the meaning and benefits perceived the perpetrators of the community. This tradition also encourages people to increasingly do and obey certain social orders⁽⁵⁾.

The elaborated description shows that individual and social factors lead to early marriage. The researchers were interested in conducting research on the relationship of individual factors and social factors with the mother's intention to continue the tradition of child marriage in Sumenep Regency.

The purpose of this study was to analyze the relationship between individual factors and social factors with the intention of mothers to continue the tradition of early marriage in Sumenep Regency.

Material and Method

This is a descriptive study with a qualitative approach. The informants in this included main and key informants. The main informant in this study was the first-married woman <20 years old. Key informants include husbands, parents, community leaders and health workers. A total of 32 informants were included in this study.

Determination of 32 informants was carried out based on two principles of qualitative sampling including suitability and adequacy. Data collection was performed qualitatively using in-depth interview and observation methods. The research instruments in this

study were observation sheets and interview guidelines. Data validity was checked using source triangulation.

Data analysis in this study used qualitative analysis. The data analysis stages were content analysis, analytical procedure, translations.

a. Content analysis

The activity carried out is to determine the informant in accordance with predetermined criteria. Data from in-depth interviews were converted into transcripts and read repeatedly for understanding.

b. Analytical procedure

The activity carried out is to make a collection of interview data to be analyzed. The next step is giving category terms to people/groups with the same potential. These categories are arranged in a coding book in the excel application. Coding books are also compiled to facilitate further analysis.

c. Translations

Interviews were conducted in Madurese Language. Madurese was used to adjust the language used by informants to make it easier to extract information from informants.

Findings

The main informants in this study included 10 informants with the first age of marriage <20 years. The key informants included 22 informants including husbands, parents, community leaders, health workers.

Based on research, individual factors appeared in ten informants with history of early marriage. The tradition of matchmaking in Sumenep Regency is high. The reasons for the matchmaking among the 5 informants was of family relations, 2 informants were physical growth, and 2 informants were the elderly people in the family.

Based on the research, social factors were related to the marriage of young children including education, employment, culture, age at first marriage, and religion. Of the ten informants, 8 informants had elementary school level and 2 informants had junior high school education. In terms of work, the informants' jobs are as follows: Housewives (5 informants), Farmers (3 informants), Shop employees (1 informant), Laborers (1 informant).

The first age of the informant's marriage varies. The lowest age is 13 years and the highest age is 19 years. The culture of young marriage in Sumenep Regency was revealed by ten informants with a marriage age range of 15-17 years for girls. The marriage tradition of young age is inseparable from religion. The ten informants adhered to Islam. Religious reasons are one of the factors in the tradition of young marriage in society.

The interview results showed that 6 out of 10 informants had the intention to continue the marriage of children at a young age. A total of 4 informants did not have the intention to continue the marriage of children at a young age.

Discussion

Individual factors are actions or activities carried out by informants in the past related to the occurrence of his first marriage at a young age. The results of the study showed that informants carried out young marriages because of arranged marriages by their parents in the past. In line with the research conducted by Munawarah, et al. (2015) the occurrence of young marriage in Madurese society was due to child marriage conducted by parents⁽⁶⁾.

The reasons for matchmaking include family relationships, physical growth, and elderly people in the family. First, matchmaking on the grounds of family relations still occurs because parents want to re-strengthen the relationship between families and to bring families closer. Matchmaking was carried out since the informants was still toddler with his own family to bring the family relationship closer together. The union of families is carried out to continue family tree. Matching a child with someone who is still in a family relationship is a separate control for parents. Parents will find it easier to help solve a problem if there is a child domestic conflict.

Second, matchmaking takes place on the grounds of physical growth. Physical growth is a benchmark for people to marry off their children. Girls have fast physical growth, are easily seen and discussed by the community. Fast physical growth is characterized by a high and full body size. When children have attracted attention, parents experience promiscuity. Parents will immediately receive a male application without having to listen to the child's opinion.

Third, matchmaking with the reasons of elderly people in the family that elderly people can see their grandchildren and grandchildren get married before he dies. The elderly person is the oldest person in the family, grandfather, grandmother, great-grandfather, and great-grandmother. Elderly people feel happy if they can still see their grandchildren getting married.

The tradition of matchmaking has become a separate law in the community. This makes the marriage behavior of young children difficult to prevent. This behavior will continue to be applied and become an individual factor to encourage mothers to continue the marriage of young children.

In addition to individual factors, there are also social factors that encourage mothers to continue the marriage of young children. Ajzen (2005) adds social aspects in background factors including education, work, culture, age of first marriage, and religion because it has something to do with one's intention to do a certain behavior⁽⁷⁾. The results of the study show that most of the informants had a low level of education, namely elementary school graduates. Low education affects the mother's intention to marry her child at a young age. This is supported by research conducted by Anisa (2015) that the higher the parental education, the more positive the parents' attitudes toward young age marriage⁽⁸⁾. Education is one of the factors that influence a person's perception. Education makes it easier for people to accept or choose a better change. The level of education illustrates the level of maturity of a person's personality in responding to an environment that can influence thinking insight or respond to knowledge around him⁽⁹⁾. Informants with a low level of education have insufficient knowledge and understanding of the impact that will occur when marrying young children. Informants tend to assume that marriage at a young age is a normal thing to do and does not feel a very visible impact.

The results showed that the majority (5 informants) worked as housewives (IRT). The community has a view that women do not have to work, enough to be a housewife by taking care and looking after the house. Similar to the research conducted by Munawarah, et al. (2015) women do not have freedom in the workplace⁽⁶⁾. This view influences the informant's intention to immediately marry off his child so that he can help him in terms of housewife's work and looking after the house. After the child is married, the girl will live with her parents. It is a tradition of the community that most

married girls will live in their parents' homes.

Early marriages and marriages have become a tradition in Sumenep community, even becoming customary law. The results of the study revealed that most girls have been married at the age of 15-17 years. According to Musfiroh (2016) the cultural and religious values that developed in the community were the driving factors for the occurrence of early marriage⁽¹⁰⁾. Culture has become the most influential factor in marriage behavior aged <20 years. The community has made marriage a young age as a local customary law that is obeyed by the community so that its implementation is considered normal.

Informants in this study revealed that they followed a culture or tradition that is the habits that exist in society. All behaviors that they will do must be in accordance with local behavior. Like early marriage, if marrying a child at a young age has become a culture of society, then any prevention will not be able to inhibit the implementation of marriage.

The other social factor is age. The age in this study focused on the age of women during the first marriage. The results showed that the lowest age of married women was 13 years and the highest age was 19 years. Ten informants in this study married for the first time under the age of 20 years. Girls in Sumenep Regency will be rushed to marry to prevent deviations from religion.

Informants in this study revealed their fear of child relationships because nowadays it is easy to prioritize relationships before marriage (courtship). Khaparistia & Edward (2015) in their research revealed that girls had known dating since the age of 15 years⁽¹¹⁾. As a result, informants anticipate this by marrying off children at a young age so as not to prioritize lust. Various methods are used to be able to marry off children at <2 years of age including age manipulation. According to Munawarah, et al. (2015) age manipulation is considered legitimate, because the aim is only to get a marriage book. Manipulation of age and married sirih has become a common thing for the people of Sumenep because the most important thing for the community is marriage and marriage witnesses. In addition, there is no other thing that can hinder the occurrence of marriage⁽⁶⁾.

The results showed that there were 6 informants who had the intention to continue the marriage tradition of young children. A total of 4 informants did not have the intention to continue the marriage tradition of young

children. This intention arises because of individual factors and social factors that encourage informants to marry off children at a young age. The informant in this study revealed that the intention was to marry off a child at a young age because he saw his past who was married at a young age. According to the informant, getting married at a young age does not have a loss. This shows that there is a relationship between individual factors with the mother's intention to marry off a child at a young age.

Furthermore, there are also social factors that are also related to the emergence of the intention of the mother to marry off the child at a young age. The social factors are education, work, culture, first age of marriage, and religion. Social factors have a greater influence than individual factors. This is because informants are more obedient to culture and religion. Sumenep community cannot be separated from culture and religion. Culture and religion have merged into one in the order of life of society. The emergence of the prevailing Tradition in the community regarding the marriage of young age provides a positive perception for informants. According to Anisa, et al. (2015) people will follow traditions while according to the community this is good to do and not against religion⁽⁸⁾.

Conclusion

Based on the explanation above, it can be concluded that of the 10 main informants in Sumenep Regency:

1. Ten informants had past experience of arranged marriages.
2. Most of the informants (8) only had primary education.
3. Most informants (5) work as housewives.
4. Early marriage culture still exists for girls of 15-17 years.
5. Ten informants had the first marriage at the age <20 years.
6. Ten informants adhered to Islam.
7. Married mothers of young age in Sumenep Regency had the intention to continue the marriage tradition of children aged <20 years.
8. There is a relationship between individual factors and social factors with the mother's intention

to continue the child marriage tradition in Sumenep Regency.

Recommendation

1. Mothers need to include children in any issues related to children, including marriage problems.
2. Parents need to fulfill children's educational rights to reduce the risk of marriage of young children.
3. Health workers need to improve interventions in school youth evenly to increase their knowledge and understanding of the impact of young marriage.
4. Community leaders need to develop an atmosphere about marriage and the importance of mental readiness to deal with domestic life with parents and the community.
5. The Education Agency needs to provide intervention to the community regarding the fulfillment of children's education rights with a minimum fulfillment of children's education to high school (High School)

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