

# Determinants and Impact of Child Marriage on the Bride in Indonesia

**Nunik Puspitasari**

*Assistant Professor, Dept. of Biostatistics and Population Study, Public Health Faculty, Airlangga University, Indonesia*

## Abstract

This study aims to analyze variables thought to be determinants and effects of child marriage on the bride. The design of this study was a case-control study. The number of samples was 116 brides consisting of 58 brides married at age <18 years old as a case group and 58 brides who got married at age > 18 years old as a control group. There were 23 variables thought to be determinants and nine variables suspected as the impact of child marriage. The variables that were significantly associated with child marriage were 1) the ethnic of the bride, 2) father's education, 3) mother's education, 4) the occupational of the bride, 5) education of the bride and 6) the purpose of marriage was to lived happily (psychological). While the variables that were significantly affected the child marriage were: 1) the bride's education and 2) the purpose of marriage was to lived happily (psychological). Variables that significantly to the impact of child marriage were women's independence or women's autonomy. The determinants of child marriage were the bride's education, and the purpose of marriage was to lived happily (psychological). The impact of child marriage was women's autonomy.

**Keywords:** *Child marriage, bride, determinants, impact*

## Introduction

Child marriage refers to any form of marriage that occurs before a child reaches 18 years. The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in 1979 was the most comprehensive international treaty for women's rights, stating that any child's engagement or marriage should not have a legal status <sup>(1)</sup>. The Committee that monitors the Convention further states in its General Recommendation 21 article 16 (paragraph 2) that the minimum age for marriage for men and women must be 18 years of age when they have reached maturity and capacity to act <sup>1;2</sup>.

Marriage has initially been based on the parents' consent but often do not pay attention to girls' best interests. Child marriages often involve some element of violence. A forced marriage is defined as "a marriage conducted without the full consent of both parties' bride men and women, and there is a pressure factor." Marriage of young girls often occurs due to the traditional practice, determined by customary law, religious law, and supported the state law on minimum age limit marriage <sup>1</sup>.

Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1948 states that every person has the right to freely and consciously agree to get married or not<sup>3</sup>, the consciousness of freedom, and there will never be a bride when he was not yet an adult. Freely and consciously agree to marry or not implies that the bride should carry out a wedding without feeling forced or coerced by anyone and by any circumstances, have been well acquainted with potential partners, and know all the marriage consequences that will be lived.

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### Corresponding author:

**Nunik Puspitasari**

Dept. of Biostatistics and Population Study, Public Health Faculty, Airlangga University, Indonesia

Phone: + 62-081333453979,

Email: nunik-p@fkm.unair.ac.id

The determinant occurrence of child marriage is not just one. UNICEF (2001) describes several causes of child marriage, i.e., poverty and family economic survival strategy, and protect girls from sexual relations before marriage<sup>4</sup>. Another factor causing child marriages is family ties or kinship, gender inequality, protect the family honor, tradition, culture, and the conditions of insecurity<sup>5</sup>.

The problems that arise in marriage are quite a lot of children. The loss of childhood and adolescence, the loss of the opportunity to continue their education, the loss of freedom and the opportunity to develop themselves, forced sexual relations, pregnancy, and childbirth at a young age is a consequence of physical, psychological, intellectual, and emotional most fundamental of child marriage<sup>4</sup>.

Probolinggo District is one of the districts in the East Java Province's eastern region with a low Human Development Index (HDI). Based on previous studies, it is known as many as 27.8% of prospective brides getting married at the age of fewer than 18 years in Probolinggo District. This study aims to analyze the determinants and impact of child marriage on brides in the Probolinggo District.

## Materials and Methods

This study used a case-control design approach survey method. The study population was all the bride of nine sub-district in Probolinggo in 2018. The population is divided into two groups: the case population bride married <18 years as many as 217 brides and brides in the control population aged > 18 years as many as 578 brides.

The research sample is determined by considering that the bride's proportion married with age <18 years was 27.8% of the total population, based on previous studies' results in 2017. The sample size for cases, namely the bride who married <18 years old, is calculated by the simple random sampling equation, with  $1-\alpha = 95$ ,  $P = 0.278$ ,  $d = 0.1$ ,  $N = 217$ , so that the case sample size is 58 brides.

$$n = \frac{z_{1-\alpha/2}^2 P(1-P)N}{d^2 (N-1) + z_{1-\alpha/2}^2 P(1-P)}$$

$n = 58$  samples of case

The sample size for controls was determined by a ratio of 1: 1 with cases. Thus the overall sample size was 116 brides.

This research has been declared to meet ethical eligibility by the Ethical Clearance Research Team of Medicine and Health Gajah Mada University, Yogyakarta, Indonesia, with the number: KE/KF/202/EC. Respondents have rights to their privacy and information, and efforts will be made to conceal respondents' identities in all publications. Information about a respondent or identifying information including names, or addresses, will not be published.

The independent variable in this study was 1) the number of children who become dependent on the parent, 2) the number of the younger brother, 3) the number of older brothers, the number of younger women, 4) the number of older sisters, 5) the order of birth, 6) ethnic, 7) father's occupation, 8) mother's occupation, 9) father's education level, 10) mother's education level, 11) the work status of the bride, 12) education level of the bride, 13) the work status of the groom, 14) education level of the groom, marriage purpose, 15) voting patterns husband, patterns of matchmaking, 16) marriage order by order of birth, age of entry into the reproductive years, 17) a pregnancy outside of marriage, 18) family income, and 19) the bride and groom earnings. The dependent variable is the age at first marriage. Simultaneously, the impact is the readiness to get pregnant, contraceptive use, domestic violence, school dropout, independence of women (women's autonomy), bleeding due to sexual or reproductive processes, anemia, and blood pressure. Data analysis was using the chi-square test and logistic regression.

## Result

### Determinants of the Child Marriage Bride

Chi-square analysis of the results obtained significant results are variable 1) rate of the bride, 2) father's education level, 3) mother's education level, 4)

the work of the bride at the time of marriage, 5) education level of the bride and 6) marriage purpose was want to live happily and independently. Based on the analysis, Chi-Square then performed a logistic regression analysis of all the child marriage determinants with a significance value of  $<0.05$ . Logistic regression analysis was conducted to determine the effect of significant variables on the bride's early marriage. The logistic regression analysis of sixth child bride marriages' determinants was at the first stage produces only two significant variables that educational variables and variables bride wedding destination want to live happily and independently.

The logistic regression analysis results of the educational variables bride marrying age, with a comparator bride who graduated from senior high school, indicate the significant value of 0.000 and the expected value of 0.61 in the group of brides who graduated junior high school or Islamic junior high school. His understanding of the bride who graduated junior high school or Islamic junior high school likely to marry at age  $<18$  years of 6.21 (1/0.161) times greater when compared with the bride who just graduated from senior high school education or Islamic senior high school.

The logistic regression analysis results of the educational variables bride marrying age, with a comparator bride who graduated from senior high school or Islamic senior high school, indicate the significant value of 0.013 and 6.636 in the group expected value bride graduated college. The sense bride graduated from senior high school or Islamic senior high school likely to marry at age  $<18$  years 6.636 times greater than educated bride graduated college.

The results of logistic regression analysis showed a marriage purpose, brides who have marriage purpose want to live happily and independently (psychological reasons) can get married at the age of  $>18$  years was 42.11 higher than the bride who does not have a want to live a happy and independent (psychological purpose).

### **Impact of Child Marriage**

Based on the analysis result, Chi-Square then performed a logistic regression analysis of the variables that impact child marriage with a significance  $<0.05$ . Logistic regression analysis was conducted to determine

the effect of child marriage on its impacts. Logistic regression analysis performed on one variable is variable women's independence or women's autonomy.

The logistic regression analysis of variables age at marriage against variable women's independence or women's autonomy, with a comparison group who did not want independence, showed a significant value of 0.021 and an expected value of 0.392. That means the bride who married at age  $<18$  years likely to be greater 0.392 independently than the bride who married at the age of  $>18$  years. Conversely, the bride who got married at 18 years was likely to be independent at 2.551 (1/0.392) times greater than those married at age  $<18$ .

## **Discussion**

### **Determining Child Marriage**

#### **Tribe of the bride**

The girls who get married at an early age will usually get married to a neighbor that is not far from where she lives. Thus they are likely to marry someone who comes from the same tribe. Most of the tribes residing in the Probolinggo District are Madurese, so many marriages child's age must also Madurese. When the girl mobility away and out of the village, such as work or school, they have a great chance to get married at a more mature age and get a couple of other tribes.

The results are consistent with the research, which states that there is the religious factor's role in girls' ethnically early marriage<sup>6</sup>. Another study also mentions that ethnicity is one of the main covariates of child marriage<sup>7</sup>.

#### **Parental education of men and women**

Like living in the District of Probolinggo, the whole village would be very nervous if her daughter is already 20 years old but not yet married, except when her parents are well educated. The education of relatively high parents is those with high school education and above. However, when parents educate Diniyah school (traditional Islamic school), especially with strong adherence, they will marry off their daughter at the child's age.

The results are consistent with the research results in Ngawi, East Java province, Indonesia, which states that education fathers' and mothers' education affects family income. Family income affects subsequent child marriage<sup>8</sup>. However, these results contrast with research that says that parents' education level does not significantly associate with girls' early marriage<sup>9</sup>.

### **The bride's occupation**

Young women who do not work, especially since she also had no school, will marry at the child's age, while the young women who work tend to marry at older ages. Probably due to teenage girls who work and have their income will have more life choices than those who do not work. Young girls working may also have more friends to be chosen as a mate, and have a bargaining position stronger towards parents who want to match them.

The teenage girl who works, in general, are getting married at an older age (> 16 years) and is more likely to marry someone from outside the village who come from a different tribe. The men who have permanent jobs are preferred as a suitor because they have a guaranteed income. However, parents sometimes can not reject the suitor while still unemployed, considering that they had nothing to woo.

The results of the study in Bangladesh showed conformity with the outcome of this study. The research results in Bangladesh mentioned that the woman's level of female education and work status, her husband's education, family composition, and access to the mass media significantly influence the age of marriage<sup>10</sup>. The status of work on children aged married women will affect a variety of ways. The research in Wonogiri District, Central Java, Indonesia, stated that child marriage could be prevented by providing girls jobs before marriage<sup>11</sup>.

### **Education bride**

Girls with a generally high level of education are minimal senior high school will tend to marry based on their own choice and married at an older age. As for the prospective bride husband, usually, parents choose son-in-law to be educated and consider all aspects.

According to research in Congo, this study states there is a relationship between the bride's education with a child marriage claimed that they were not educated at risk of early marriage are higher than their counterparts with higher education<sup>12</sup>. The research in Wonogiri, Central Java, Indonesia, stated that child marriage could be reduced to improve education for women, the perception of positive parenting, and work before marriage<sup>11</sup>. The research in Central Sulawesi Province, Indonesia, also states that education levels affect girls' early marriage among girls<sup>9</sup>. The practice of child marriage on Roma women in Serbia was most common among girls living in poor households, the less educated, and living in a rural location<sup>13</sup>. Another research also stated that the education of girls would prevent early marriage<sup>7; 14; 15</sup>.

### **Purpose of marriage**

The bride's age children usually do not understand the essence of the purpose of marriage. Parents worried when if their daughter does not ask for a hand and eventually becomes an old maid. In rural communities in Probolinggo, married women's status or never married (widowed) is much more respectable than the old maid. When the parents' decision determines a marriage, the bride will not have a chance to think about their marriage purpose. Just the bride who chooses potential partners will have the purpose of marriage to form an independent family and happy life (Psychological reasons) in the future. When the parent determines the marriage decision, marriage aims to belong to the parents (father) and no longer belong to the bride.

The results are consistent with research in Ghana that mentions that marriage's stability and duration do not always mean that the couple' happy and satisfied' with their marriage<sup>16</sup>. Research on women and men in the UK states that social support's perception moderates the relationship between marital status and psychological well-being in married<sup>17</sup>. In comparison, research in Malaysia stated that mutual love, friendship, and joy are a primary socio-psychological motive of marriage<sup>18</sup>.

### **Impact of Child Marriage on The Bride**

#### **Independence of women or women's autonomy**

The bride, who was married at a young age, still has the independence to care for themselves, their health, and follow social activities. The bride, who was married at the child's age, still has several self-reliance since most of them usually live with their parents. In this case, parents' role is enormous to protect and interfere in their daughters' domestic affairs.

The results of this study, which state that there is an influence between the age of child marriage and women's independence (women's autonomy), are in accordance with a research in Bangladesh which states that child marriage prevents women from obtaining higher education and encourages them to return to being powerless in patriarchal society<sup>19</sup>. Research in Nepal shows the ill effects of child marriage on maternal autonomy in decision-making, social isolation, and the dominant force of her husband and mother-in-law<sup>20</sup>.

### Conclusion

The conclusion of this study are variables related to child marriage to brides are 1) the ethnic of the bride, 2) the education level of the bride's father, 3) the education level of the bride's mother, 4) the occupational status of the bride, 5) education level of the bride and 6) the purpose of marriage is to live a happy and independent (psychological purpose). While the variables that influence child marriage are the bride education level variable, and the marriage purpose variable is a psychological purpose. The impact of child marriage on the bride is women's independence (women's autonomy).

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