

IMPLICATIONS ON THE HIGH RATE OF ADOLESCENT MARRIAGES IN SOUTH KALIMANTAN: DATA ANALYSIS OF 2017 IDHS

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ABSTRACT The high number of adolescent marriages is a constraint to the development of adolescents who are the targets of national development as well as hinder the Family Development, Population and Family Planning Program (Bangga Kencana). Adolescent marriages generate negative effects which must be carried out, especially by women. The high rate of adolescent marriages in South Kalimantan is reflected in the lowest national rank of median age of first marriage which is at 20.8 years and 48.2 percent of all respondents married under the age of 19 years. The theoretical framework used in this study is a modification of the research analysis conducted by Hogan which is by adding the area of residence and not examining family background variables. The purpose of this paper is to analyze the implications of adolescent marriages in South Kalimantan Province. This study uses a cross sectional research design. The sample in this study was 305 female respondents who were married in their teens (15-19 years) and 328 respondents who were not married at their teens. Data analysis uses univariate analysis and bivariate analysis. The results showed that there were four variables with a significant relationship with adolescent marriages due to the p value < 0.05 , namely the age of first birth, number of children born alive, use of contraception and the number of marriages. There is only one variable with value $p = 0.578$ so that it does not have a significant relation with adolescent marriage, namely the number of children under five in the household. Statistically there is a significant relation between the incidence of marriage under 19 years or adolescent marriage with the childbirth not at ideal age, high fertility, not using contraception and having divorce.

Keywords: implications; marriages; adolescents

1. INTRODUCTION

The development of adolescent population is one of the national development targets as stated in the National Medium-Term Development Plan 2020-2024. That target will be facing obstacles if the adolescent population are married and they are at risk of causing a long impact. According to BKKBN, adolescents are those by the age of 10-19 years. Meanwhile adolescent marriages will violating children's rights, limiting their choices, seizing their opportunities, and make them vulnerable to violence, exploitation and abuse (Plan International, 2012). Adolescent marriage will end the period of adolescence which is supposed to be a time for physical, social and social development before entering adulthood (Bappenas, 2017).

Based on data in Indonesia according to BPS in 2017, the percentage of women by the age of 10-17 years who are married and divorced based on the age of first marriage is 39.17 percent or 2 out of 5 girls aged 10-17 years have been married before they are turning 15.

There are around 37.91 percent of girls who are married at the age of 16 years and 22.92 percent are married at 17 years as shown in Figure 1. The lower the age of first marriage of girls, the higher the percentage of them who are married and divorced. Indeed this will hamper the national development goals and BKKBN support in the Priority Integration and Synchronization of Population Control Policy Activities as well as strengthening population management. One of the indicators of the achievement of national development and strengthening of family quality is the high median age of Women's First Marriage.



Source: National Socioeconomic Survey (Susenas) 2017, BPS

Figure 1. Percentage of Girls by the Age of 10-17 whose are Married and Divorced based on the Age of First Marriage 2017

The high number of cases of adolescent marriages is a challenge for BKKBN as an extension of the government in handling population which includes the youth population. Adolescent marriages are an obstacle in implementing the Family Development, Population and Family Planning Program (Pembangunan Keluarga, Kependudukan dan Keluarga Berencana/Bangga Kencana) with the indicators in the achievement of adolescent birth rates aged 15-19 years reaches to 18/1,000 adolescents in 2024. In 2020 it faces a major challenge with the pandemic outbreak of COVID-19 which widespread all over the globe. The impacts are not only hitting Indonesia in general, but also Province of South Kalimantan in spesific in relation to the achievements and targets of Bangsa Kencana.

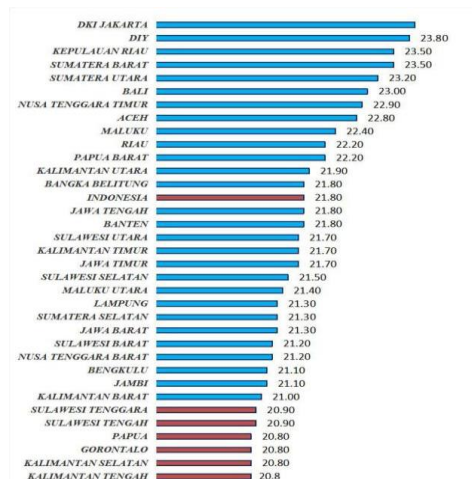


Figure 2. Median of First Age of Marriage (Umur Kawin Pertama/UKP) of Women Aged 25-49 based on Province, IDHS, 2017

Based on Figure 2, there are four provinces with the lowest median age of first marriage (UKP) for women at the age of 25-49: Central Kalimantan, South Kalimantan, Gorontalo and Papua with a median of 20.80 years. The median age at first marriage is below the ideal age for marriage and it affected the unreached goal of the Maturing of Marriage Age program. Maturing the age of marriage is an effort to increase the age of one's first marriage in order to reach the ideal age of marriage. According to the National Population and Family Planning Agency (BKKBN), the ideal age of first marriage in terms of reproductive health, psychology, psychosocial, economics, quality of children born or also known as the Maturing of Marriage Age Program is at 21-30 years old for women and at 25-40 years old for men. Maturing of Marriage Age program is stimulated by the high number of adolescent marriages which lead to many teenage pregnancies correlating to the number of unwanted pregnancies. The unwanted pregnancies become the accelarating factor of population growth, potentially creating the low quality of the population, many negative impacts which must be borne by the adolescents, especially young women when they are subjected to the adolescent marriages.

Adolescent marriages are caused and have multifactorial implications. According to ICRW (2013), BPS and UNICEF (2016), BPS (2017), KPPPA and BPS (2018), some of the the causes of adolescent marriages are poverty, low education, residential areas, culture, and regulations. Adolescent marriages have impacts on, among others, reproductive health such as teenage pregnancy and childbirth, intellectuality, family quality, poverty, psychological and psychosocial, family harmony, divorce, remarriage, violations of children and women's rights.

Behavior of the adolescent marriages is strongly influenced by various factors and habits. A person's behavior is not only influenced by a single factor, instead there are many factors to be considered. The theoretical framework in this study is modified by the framework of the research analysis conducted by Hogan (1978). Hogan examined four factors which influenced the child marriage, namely socio-economic background, family background (parents' education level, father's occupation), education level and employment status. Meanwhile in this study, the authors added the residential area to be examined and did not examine the family background variables. The purpose of this paper is to analyze the implications of adolescent marriages in South Kalimantan Province.

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

This study uses a cross sectional research design. The samples in this study were all married women by the age of 15-49 years who became respondents of 2017 IDHS in South Kalimantan Province. The number samples were 633 respondents and were qualified the following criteria: (1) the category of adolescent marriages in which the age of first marriage 15-19 years and there were 305 respondents qualified; (2) the category of non-adolescent marriages by the age of first marriage at above 20 years and 328 respondents were qualified. The instrument used in this study was a list of questions used in 2017 IDHS on the female questionnaire (SDKI 17-WPK).

Table 1 Research Variables and Operational Definitions

No.	Variables	Operational Definitions	Type of Instruments
Dependent Variables			
1	Age of First Marriage	Age of first marriage by the respondents. Age limit is based on the age limit for one to be categorized as an adolescent (BKKBN). Category of variables: 0 = Adolescent marriages (<19 years) 1 = not adolescent marriages (≥20 years)	SDKI17-WKP No. 51
Independent Variables			
2	Age of First Childbirth	Age of one giving birth if a baby for the first time. Category of variables: 0 = Not an ideal reproduction age 1 = An ideal reproduction age (20- 35 years)	SDKI17-WKP No. 212
3	Number of Children Born Alive	Number of children born alive by the respondents by the time of interview. Category of variables: 0 = <2 children 1 = ≥ 3 children	SDKI17-WKP No. 201
4	Number of Children under five years in the household	Number of children under five years of the respondents by the time of the interview. Category of variables: 0 = have 1 = not have	SDKI17-WKP No. 137
5	Contraceptive use during the survey	Situation of the respondents by the time of the interview as an action of contraceptive use. Category of variables: 0 = not utilizing contraceptions 1 = utilizing contraceptions	SDKI17-WKP No. 312
6	Son (s) who passed	Respondents ever had son (s) who	SDKI17-WKP

Source: IDHS 2017, processed by the authors

The dependent variable in this study was adolescent marriage while there were six independent variables, namely age of first birth, number of children born alive, number of children under five in the household, utilizing of contraception, child mortality and divorce. Data analysis uses univariate analysis and bivariate analysis. Univariate analysis is to see the frequency and distribution of the independent and dependent variables.

As for frequency tables are used to illustrate the proportion of characteristics of research subjects by categorizing the analyzed variables. A bivariate analysis is to identify whether there is a relationship between the independent variable and the dependent variable using the chi square statistical test with a significance level of p-value <0.05.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This section describes the frequency distribution of the independent and dependent variables (teenage marriage). Table 2 shows that the majority of teenage marriage subjects gave birth first at the age of under 20 years. The age at which it is less than the ideal age for a woman to give birth since it is too young. More women who were married at an older age had their first birth at the age of 20-35 years. That is considered the ideal age for women to get pregnant and give birth. When a woman gives birth at under the age of 20 years, it is dangerous for herself and the baby. Many references regarding the impact of first marriage at younger age, which includes Credos

Institute (2017) KPPPA and BPS (2018), BPS and Bappenas (2020) which states that child marriages cause early pregnancy and childbirth which is associated with high mortality rates and mothers who have giving birth at the age of under 18 years also has a risk of death in the infants, namely babies born prematurely and stunting.

The low age at first marriage for a woman causes her reproductive period to be much longer compared to those who marry at adulthood so that it has an impact on high fertility. The same thing showed in this study, there are twice number of women who married at the age of adolescents had children born alive ≥ 3 live births than those who were married at an older age. The majority of women who are married at older ages have 1-2 children. The results of this study reinforce the results of previous studies that low age of the first marriage causes high fertility (Singarimbun dan Manning, 1974; Hull, 1976; Irawati, 1980; Passay, 1982; Sukamdi, et.al., 1995; Reynolds et.al., 2006; Godha, Gage dan Hotchkiss, 2012; Rahardja, 2014; Wodon et.al., 2018).

The percentage of children under five in the household of women who are married in the adolescents decreases as the number of children under five increases. The opposite is true for women who are married at a more mature age, to be specific that the percentage increases along with the increasing number of children under five in the household. Women who got married in their teens are aware not to have one toddler in their household. This is due to the fact that women who got married in their teens think that they still have a longer reproductive age so they keep the birth spacing.

Table 2 Distribution of Respondents based on the Age of First Childbirth, the Number of Children Born Alive and the Number of Children under Five Years in the Household

Implications	Adolescent Marriages	
	Yes	No
Age of First Childbirth		
<20	97,66	2,34
20-35	14,89	85,11
>35	0	100
Number of Children Born Alive		
0	14,63	85,37
1-2	41,93	58,07
≥ 3	66,35	33,65
Number of Children under Five Years in the Household		
0	49,38	50,62
1	48,16	51,84

Source: IDHS 2017, processed by the authors

Based on Table 3, there were fewer women who married in the age of teenagers who did not use contraception compared to those who married in the adulthood. Long-term non- contraceptive methods (Non-MKJP) and MKJP are more widely to be used by women who are married in their adolescents compared to those who are married at an older age. The findings in South Kalimantan from the 2017 IDHS data are in line with the KPPPA and BPS reports (2018) states that half of girls in Indonesia who have ever married at the aged 15-17 years both in urban and rural areas have participated in the family planning program, to be precise 43.62 percent. Children who are already married tend to try to reduce the number of children and allow time for subsequent births.

Another impact of adolescent marriage is the mortality of the children, both sons and daughters. Women who do not get marry in their adolescents do not have their children passed away, both male and female. Women who get married in their teens have a greater risk and have a chance to have their children to die. Getting married in the adolescence have risks of being unprepared for the childbirth and childcare. Based on reports of several studies of child marriages in Indonesia (Djamilah and Kartikawati, 2014; KPPPA and BPS, 2018; BPS and Bappenas, 2020), babies born from women who got married at the child age have a greater risk of death and also have twice risk of dying before the babies reaching to 1 year of age compared with children who were born from mothers who were at the age of twenty years old and more.

Table 3 Distribution of Respondents based on the Contraceptive Use

Implications of Adolescent Marriages	Adolescent Marriages	
	Yes	No
Contraceptive Use/Method		
No Family Planning	40	60
Non-MKJP	52,65	47,35
MKJP	51,06	48,94
Sons passed away		
Someone died	100	0
None	47,60	52,40
Daughters passed away		
Someone died	100	0
None	47,44	52,56

Source: IDHS 2017, processed by the authors

In Table 4, it is known that women who get married in their teens are more likely to be divorced than those who get married in adulthood. Early marriage also has an impact on the low quality of the family, to be specific are in terms of psychological unpreparedness in facing the household socio-economy, the risk of not being mentally prepared to foster a marriage and becoming a responsible parent, which resulting in a failure of the marriage. Divorce is one of the consequences of the early marriage. This conclusion of the findings on marital status for women who are married in adolescence are the same as reports by Ekawati (2008), Benedicta et.al. (2017) and BPS (2017) that state the divorce rate for women who have their first marriage at the adolescent is higher than for women who have their first marriage at the adulthood. Bearing the status of a widow is quite a burden in Indonesia. The bad stigma of society on women who are widows makes them not free to carry out activities socially or economically. In addition, as single parents, these women must be responsible for the family economy, including the education and care of their children. This burden is certainly not easy to live with due to the fact that women who get married at the adolescent generally do not have sufficient skills or education to enter the labor market. This has resulted in many women who are the subjects of child marriages and got divorced chose to go back to their parents or their families.

The number of more than one marriage which experienced by women who got married in their adolescent is three times higher than those who got married at an older age. This shows that marriage in the adolescence has the potential for getting divorce and remarriage. When women become widows in their teens, the potential for remarriage is great when there is a man is willing to marry her. There are 72 out of 100 women who were first married in their teens are married more than once. Strengthening the findings of BPS (2017), there is a higher rate of divorce for women who are married at the adolescent, it is also seen in the number of marriages. Among women aged 20-24 who were married before the age of 18, 4.53% were married two times or more, while among women aged 18 years and over the percentage was only 1.19%.

Table 4 Distribution of Respondents based on the Status of Marriage and Number of Marriages

Implications of Adolescent Marriages	Adolescent Marriages	
	Yes	No
Status Perkawinan		
Married	48.14	51.86
Living together	0	100
Divorced	53.33	47.67
Death divorce	48.15	51.85
Number of marriages		
One time	44.32	55.68
More than one time	72.41	27.59

Source: IDHS 2017, processed by the authors

Based on the 8 variables used in this study, only 6 variables could be analyzed bivariate analysis due to the fact that there are empty columns in the variables of mortality for boys and girls so that they did not meet the requirements in the chi square analysis test which was at least n in each column 5 and the results of data processing. In this study, there is a column with n zero on child mortality, both boys and girls. Table 5 presents the relationship between the variables of age at first birth, the number of children born alive, the number toddlers, the use of contraceptives, household harmony and the number of marriages towards the adolescent marriages. The table shows the existence of patterns and differences in characteristics in the incidence of adolescent marriages and adulthood marriages. From the results of the bivariate analysis, it was found that there were five variables that had a significant relationship with adolescent marriage because the p value <0.05 was the age of first birth, the number of live births, the use of contraception, household harmony and the number of marriages. There is only one variable which value of p = 0.578 so that it does not have a significant relationship with adolescent marriage, namely the number of toddlers in the household.

Table 5. Analysis of the Relation between Variables of Age at First Childbirth, Number of Children Born Alive, Number of Toddlers, Contraceptive Use, Family Harmoniues, and Number of Marriages towards the Adolescent Marriages

No	Variables	Adolescent Marriages		Value χ^2 Calculate	Df	Value χ^2 Table	Value of Sig.
		Yes (%)	No (%)				
1.	Age of the First Childbirth Unideal Reproductive age Ideal	95.06	4.94	375.740*	1	3.84	0.000*
	Reproductive age	14.89	85.11				
2.	Number of Children born alive	39.29	60.71	40.934*	1	3.84	0.000*
	<2	66.35	33.65				
	≥3						
3.	Number of toddlers	46.95	53.05	0.375	1	3.84	0.578
	≥1 0	49.38	50.62				
4.	Contraceptive use	40	60	9.690*	1	3.84	0,002*
	Not using contraceptive Family Planning	52.46	47.54				
5.	Family harmony Not harmony Harmony	51.80	21.60	62.249*	1	3.84	0.000*
		48.20	78.40				
6.	Number of Marriages More than one	72.41	27.59	23.719*	1	3.84	0.000*
	One	44.32	55.68				

Source: IDHS 2017, processed by the authors Note: * : significance 0,05.

a. Relation between Adolescent Marriages and Age of First Childbirth

From the analysis which has been carried out, it shows that the majority of respondents who performed adolescent marriages gave birth first at the age of under 20 years (95.06 percent), while the majority of respondents who did not marry at adolescent age gave birth for the first time at the age of 20-35 years (4.94 percent). The result of statistical test, the value of $p = 0.000 \leq 0.05$, means that there is a relation between adolescent marriages and age at first childbirth. This shows that adolescent marriages has an impact on the age of first childbirth which is not at the ideal reproductive age criteria. The implication of adolescent marriages is written by KPPPA and BPS (2018) as states that pregnant at a young age is also prone to bleeding, miscarriage, pregnancy outside the womb and premature pregnancy during pregnancy and even giving wrong parenting to children due to limited maternal characteristics in psychology.

b. Relation between Teenage Marriage and the Number of Children Born Alive

From the results of the analysis according to Table 5 hows that more women who are married in adolescence have children equal to or greater than 3, namely 66.35 percent. Women who are married at an older age have the highest percentage of children born alive equal to or more than 3, namely 60.71 percent. The result of statistical test, the value of $p = 0.000 \leq 0.05$, means that there is a relation between adolescent marriages and the number of children born alive. This shows that adolescent marriages has an impact on the number of children born alive equal to or more than three children.

Teenage marriages and teenage childbirth cause the reproductive age span to be longer so that there is the potential to have more children without planning in the household. The planning includes a plan for the number of

children wanted and a plan to use family planning to achieve the number of children as was planned. The results of the analysis in this study prove that teenage marriages cause a high fertility.

High fertility will cause multi-dimensional population problems, including higher population growth. According to BPS (2020), the population growth rate in South Kalimantan, which is 1.53 percent, is included in the medium growth rate category. The same thing is also stated by BPS (2017) in the report that the younger age of first marriage has an impact on the higher fertility rate, thus it contributes to the higher population growth. Prevention of child marriage will assist in controlling the population growth.

c. Relation Between Adolescent Marriages and the Number of Toddlers in the Household

From the analysis which has been conducted, it shows that respondents who have one or more children under five in the household are 53.05 percent from women who were married at an older age and 46.95 percent were women who married at the adolescence. The result of statistical test, $p \text{ value} = 0.578 \geq 0.05$, means that there is no relation between adolescent marriages and the number of children under five in the household. Based on the bivariable analysis, it is known that teenage marriages has no impact on the number of children under five in the household.

d. Relation Between Adolescent Marriages and Contraception Use

From the results of the analysis in table 5 shows that the majority of women who were married in their teens used contraception (52.46 percent), while women who were married at an older age who used contraception were 47.54 percent. The result of statistical test, the value of $p = 0.002 \leq 0.05$, means that there is a relation between adolescent marriages and the use of contraception. This shows that adolescent marriages has an impact on the use of contraceptives. In contrast to the findings of BPS (2017), the use of modern contraceptives for ever-married women aged 20-24 years who are married before the age of 18 is relatively the same as for women who are married at the age of 18 years and more. In this study, 4.92 percent of women who were married in the adolescence used family planning compared to women who married at an older age.

Access for all couples to family planning information and services to prevent pregnancies which are too early, too close, or too many is essential, especially for ever-married women who got married at a young age. In general, the benefits of using family planning programs to support the program, include preventing pregnancies which are too early or too late, prolonging the period between births and limiting the number of children.

e. Relation between Adolescent Marriages to Family Harmony

The results of the analysis in table 5 show that the majority of women who get married in their teens experience household disharmony which results in divorce (51.8 percent), while women who are married at a more mature age are more likely to have a harmonious household (78.4 percent). The result of statistical test, the value of $p = 0.000 \leq 0.05$, means that there is a relation between teenage marriages and family harmony. This shows that teenage marriage has an impact on households which are not harmonious. This disharmony is an indicator of the divorce which is being experienced. These findings strengthen the 2018 KPPPA and BPS reports and Kartikawati (2014).

KPPPA and BPS in their reports state that children who get married at the adolescent are visibly unstable, vulnerable to divorce due to the fact that there are often quarrels or disputes which lead to domestic violence and divorce. Meanwhile, Kartikawati wrote that one of the impacts of adolescent marriages in Indonesia is public acceptance of teenage marriage and there are many cases of teenage marriage which are not legally registered so that in the long term, if the couple will make a birth certificate for the children, it will be difficult to have the legality from the state. If there is a divorce, many parties have their rights violated, as well as children who are born inside the divorced families.

f. Relation between Adolescent Marriages and Number of Marriages

From the results of the analysis in Table 5 it shows that women who performed adolescent marriages got married more than once and the percentage is 72.41 percent, while it is 27.59 percent for the women who married at an older age. The result of statistical test, the value of $p = 0.000 \leq 0.05$, means that there is a relation between adolescent marriages and the number of marriages. This shows that adolescent marriage which has an impact on the occurrence of divorce has other long term impact. The long term impact is that when women who get married at younger age, they will experience divorce also at a young age and it has a major potential for remarriage.

4. CONCLUSIONS

The high number of adolescent marriages in South Kalimantan is reflected in the low median age of first marriage of 20.8 years and 48.2 percent of all respondents were married under 19 years of age. From the results of the analysis of the 2017 Indonesian Demographic and Health Survey, the teenage marriages in South Kalimantan has multiple impacts, especially for women, including 95.06 percent having their first childbirth under 20 years, 66.35 percent of the number of children born alive equal to or greater than 3 people, 52.46 percent used contraceptives, 51.80 percent experienced divorce and 72.41 percent married more than once (figure 3).

Statistically, there is a significant relation between the incidence of marriage under 19 years of age or teenage marriages with childbirth not at the ideal age, high fertility, using contraception, experiencing divorce and being married more than once. The low age of marriage has an influence on childbirth in adolescence, especially after in adolescent marriages, they do not try to delay pregnancy until the ideal reproductive age is 20-35 years. The factor of high fertility is due to being married in adolescence even though they have used contraception. Adolescents who are married are physically immature and psychologically immature so that it affects their mindset and resilience when facing marital problems which lead to divorce.

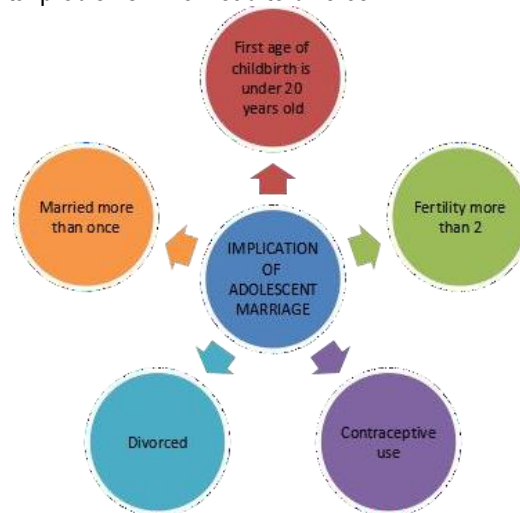


Figure 3 Implication Carried By Women Due To The Adolescent Marriages In South Kalimantan

5. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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