

The Phenomenon of Early Marriage and its Impact on Family Resilience

Vania Zulfa^{1*)}, Uswatun Hasanah¹, Fitriana Kusaini¹

¹Family Welfare Education, Faculty of Engineering, State University of Jakarta, Building L2, Campus A, Jakarta State University, Jl. Rawamangun Muka, East Jakarta 13220

*) Corresponding author: vaniazulfa@unj.ac.id

Abstract

Early marriage is a marriage that is carried out under the age of 19 and generally does not have the readiness to build a family physically, economically, emotionally and has not thought about the impact of family resilience. The purpose of this study was to determine the background, causal factors and family resilience of early marriage. This research uses a qualitative case study method. There were 12 primary and secondary informants. Data collection techniques used observation, interviews, and document studies. Data analysis uses the theory of Miles and Huberman (1984) and checks the validity of the data by triangulating data sources. The results showed that the background of early marriage was due to a lack of education for the community regarding the impact of early marriage, a feeling of shame for neighbors who were married but themselves were not married, and a feeling of fear of becoming an old maid. The factors of early marriage are fear of causing fitnah, being matched because they have seen a prospective husband who is already working, the condition of parents who are not intact so they cannot afford to pay for children's schooling, the influence of social media and peers. The findings of this study are that early marriages are generally conducted "siri" because of the ease of access compared to official marriages. The level of family resilience of early marriage couples is still vulnerable, especially the legality of family integrity, physical resilience, economic resilience, and socio-psychological resilience.

Keywords: early marriage, family resilience, phenomenon

Abstrak

Pernikahan dini merupakan pernikahan yang dilakukan pada usia dibawah 19 tahun dan pada umumnya belum mempunyai kesiapan dalam membina keluarga baik secara fisik, ekonomi, emosional dan belum memikirkan dampak ketahanan keluarga. Tujuan penelitian ini adalah untuk mengetahui latar belakang, faktor penyebab dan ketahanan keluarga terhadap pernikahan dini. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode studi kasus kualitatif. Informan primer dan sekunder berjumlah 12 orang. Teknik pengumpulan data menggunakan observasi, wawancara, dan studi dokumen. Analisis data menggunakan teori Miles dan Huberman (1984) dan memeriksa keabsahan data dengan melakukan triangulasi sumber data. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa latar belakang terjadinya pernikahan dini adalah karena kurangnya edukasi masyarakat mengenai dampak pernikahan dini, rasa malu terhadap tetangga yang sudah menikah namun dirinya belum menikah, dan perasaan takut menjadi tua. pembantu. Faktor terjadinya pernikahan dini adalah takut menimbulkan fitnah, dijodohkan karena melihat calon suami sudah bekerja, kondisi orang tua yang tidak utuh sehingga tidak mampu membiayai sekolah anak, pengaruh media sosial dan teman sebaya. Temuan penelitian ini adalah pernikahan dini pada umumnya dilakukan secara siri karena kemudahan aksesnya dibandingkan dengan pernikahan resmi. Tingkat ketahanan keluarga pasangan pernikahan dini masih rentan terutama pada aspek legalitas keutuhan keluarga, ketahanan fisik, ketahanan ekonomi, dan ketahanan sosio-psikologis.

Kata kunci: fenomena, ketahanan keluarga, pernikahan dini

Introduction

Marriage is an initial process to be able to form a family life that stems from the realization of the forms of human life. The purpose of marriage is to organize human life in good interaction between one another. So important is the meaning of marriage that the state is present to formulate a marriage regulation, namely the Marriage Law No.16 of 2019 Article 7 paragraph (1) which explains that marriage is only permitted for candidates who are 19 years old for both men and women (Republic of Indonesia, 2019). The legal regulation is in fact not in line with the reality in Indonesia, where there are still many people who marry under the age of 19, one of which occurs in Cigoletrak Village, West Bandung City.

Early marriage can be defined as a marriage that is carried out at a young age, namely at the age of adolescence by women and men whose age is still below the minimum limit. In relation to early marriage, what is meant by young adolescents in terms of age range is men and women aged 14 years to 18 years (Prastini, 2022). Early marriage has a relationship with sociology, especially with the theory of social action coined by Max Weber. According to Weber, social action is an action that has meaning for itself and is intended for others or in another sense social action is the action of individuals who are influenced and influence others. In Weber's theory, individuals are the main actors of social action in society. Max Weber divides social action into four actions, namely instrumental rational, value rational, affective, and traditional. The culture of early marriage that occurs has a relationship to traditional actions, namely actions based on hereditary habits in society.

According to data from the Central Statistics Agency in 2022, there is a proportion of women aged 20-24 years who are married or living together before the age of 18, one of which is in the province of West Java, which is 8.65 percent. The phenomenon of early marriage can also be seen from the data on marriage dispensation in each province (BPS, 2022). The Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection stated that after the enactment of Law No. 6/2019 applications for marriage dispensation increased in 2020, but in the last two years it has decreased again. According to data from the Religious Courts Agency, applications for marriage dispensation in 2021 amounted to 61,000, while in 2022 there were approximately 50,000 applications. Although the tendency of marriage dispensation applications is decreasing, the number remains very large. There has been a decrease in applications for marriage dispensation nationally, but in West Java Province in the last three years there has been an increase. The West Java high religious court recorded the number of marriage dispensation applications in West Java Province, namely in 2020 there were 8,312 dispensation applications, then in 2021 there were 6,794 dispensations, then in 2022 there were 8,607. There was a fairly high increase from the previous year. This phenomenon is very important to study so that efforts can be found to carry out social engineering, so as to increase public understanding of the impact of early marriage.

Early marriage that takes place in Cigoletrak Village has become a habit or culture that occurs every year, this is related to ethnographic theory. Ethnography is a work to describe a culture that has the main objective of understanding a view of life from the point of view of the natives. The purpose of ethnography is "to understand the native's point of view, his relationship with life, to get his view of his world" (Spradley, 2006). By using ethnographic theory, researchers can examine directly about the customs of early marriage that occur with people who do this early marriage. In addition, researchers

can find out from local traditional leaders regarding the background of the marriage customs that take place in Cigoletrak Village.

In general, young couples are still in an immature psychological state, making them unstable in dealing with problems that arise in marriage. This causes problems that arise in the household to not be resolved properly but will become more complicated. Age will affect a person's way of thinking and attitude. In addition, young couples are also socioeconomically immature. Generally, they do not have a permanent job so that economic difficulties, conditions like this trigger domestic conflicts. Emotional instability and lack of knowledge in young married couples (Arifin et al., 2021). Another impact of early marriage is that it can affect the resilience of the family. Family resilience is a dynamic process of the family to make positive adaptations to dangers from outside and from within the family itself (McCubbin et al., 1988). Family resilience is defined as a condition that is able to adapt and overcome pressure after pressure in the present and in the future. Resilient families will face problems positively through various ways tailored to the context of the problem, the level of difficulty, and various considerations related to the interests of all family members (Hawley & DeHaan, 1996). In line large, this research aims to reveal how the cultural background early marriage can occur, what are the factors driving early marriage in this village, what is the impact on family resilience from early marriage in the village it is measured from dimensions and variables measuring the level of resilience family.

Methods

Participants

This research uses a qualitative case study method. The research was conducted in Cigoletrak Village, West Bandung Regency for 2 month and data collection was conducted in May-June 2023. Information and data sources in this study are 6 primary informants who are wives of early marriage couples and 6 secondary informants who come from parents and community leaders.

Measurement

The interview guide for the family resilience variable uses a measure of the level of family resilience issued by KPPPA (2016), namely family resilience is measured based on the family's ability to manage. Walsh (2003) explains that the concept of family resilience consists of a process that focuses on the strength of the family when under pressure, crisis, and adversity. The problems it faces from the resources it must meet the family's own needs. There are five dimensions, namely the dimensions of legality and family integrity with 7 indicators, physical resilience with 4 indicators, economic resilience with 7 indicators, and social psychological resilience. Resilience with 3 indicators, and socio-cultural resilience with 3 indicators.

Analysis

Data collection techniques in this study used observation, in-depth interviews, and document studies. Researchers used non-participant observation techniques where researchers did not participate in the lives of the people to be observed, and separately served as observers. The interview technique used in this research is semi-structured interview technique, this type of interview is included in the in-depth interview category, because its implementation is freer when compared to structured interviews. The data

collected in this study, researchers collected data through the documentation process in the form of daily records of photos, images and other documents that can be a source of supporting data for research. The data collection procedure in this study begins with pre-research, literature study, compiling interview guidelines, and implementation. Furthermore, in data analysis, namely by collecting data, reducing data, presenting data, and drawing conclusions.

Findings

Early Marriage

The results of interviews and observations show the background of the culture of early marriage in Cigoletak Village, namely because the primary informants have dropped out of school and are afraid that if they are too mature no one will want to propose or marry them, the fear of becoming an old woman, lack of education for the community regarding the impact of early marriage, and feelings of shame towards neighbors who are married but themselves are not married.

Based on the results of interviews and observations from informants that researchers conducted, informants stated the reasons for entering into early marriage, most of which were carried out in *nikah siri*. There are early marriages that are carried out because they are matched by their parents with various factors, such as being matched by parents for fear of causing slander for their children. Other informants stated that they got married at an early age because of their own will with various circumstances. One of them is because the family conditions are no longer intact, with the condition of the two parents who have divorced and have each had a family making the informant decide to get married, besides that because the informant does not want to continue his schooling.

The informant further stated that he decided to marry at an early age because both parents were incomplete with a deceased father, did not want to continue his schooling and did not want to work. Other informants also expressed the reason for marrying early on their own accord, which was because there was no money to attend *pesantren* and chose to work, while working the informant thought it was better to get married. Secondary informants, parents, stated that the reason for the early marriage of their children was because the children did not want to go to school. The next informant stated that her child did not want to continue school, and her child already knew her future husband so that parents were afraid of unwanted things happening. Another secondary informant's opinion states that early marriage occurs because children are familiar with the world of gadgets, undirected relationships, and parents who are no longer intact.

There are findings that early marriages conducted by the people of Cigoletak Village generally take place in *siri* marriage. The ease of arranging early marriages in a *siri* manner makes people prefer to marry in a *siri* manner rather than getting married officially. The incomplete administrative requirements (KTP, family card, diploma, and birth certificate) and cost constraints in arranging an official marriage are also the reasons why people prefer to marry *siri*.

There is no official data on the number of couples who conduct early marriages in Cigoletak Village. The village office only records the number of couples who want to apply for a duplicate marriage certificate to obtain a child's birth certificate. Meanwhile, the RT RW only knows and records data on the number of families as a whole. There are consequences of *siri* marriages, namely that many men easily leave their wives and marry

other women, because there is no official bond in marriage so that the wife cannot sue her husband if she is abandoned at any time. Another finding is that early siri marriages in the community have become commonplace and are not a problem in this village. Parents stated that it is better to have a girl who is a widow even though it is only the result of a siri marriage than to have an unmarried girl because they are worried that their daughter will become an old maid.

Family Resilience

Before getting married, couples only think that if the husband already has an income and the wife can cook and can take care of the household, they can be allowed to get married. But in reality, based on the results of interviews related to family resilience, many early marriage couples are vulnerable to family resilience, especially in the dimensions of legality and family integrity, physical resilience, economic resilience, and socio-psychological resilience.

Legality and Family Integrity

Early marriages conducted "siri" do not have a marriage certificate and birth certificate. However, a birth certificate can be made by requesting a duplicate of the marriage certificate made by the village office as a copy of making a birth certificate in fulfilling the child's school administration. In the family integrity sub-indicator, the informant stated that she lives completely with her husband but because he works overseas as a construction coolie, he comes home with a period of 1-2 months and communication is carried out well through virtual, namely by telephone. In the gender partnership sub-indicator, setting aside time to play with children is mostly done by the wife because the husband works as a construction worker and migrates outside the city.

In managing family finances, it is generally done by the wife because the husband works outside the city and household affairs are mostly known by the wife. In general, informants who married at an early age did not plan the number of children. The use of contraceptives according to informants is considered important to regulate the age level in having children and socialization about contraceptives and family planning has been carried out by local village informants, contraceptives that are usually used are implants and injections.

Physical Endurance

In fulfilling their daily food needs, families generally eat 2 to 3 times but not regularly. Informants stated that they did not experience nutritional problems in fulfilling the nutritional needs of the family. In general, families have chronic diseases or congenital defects, but there are some families who stated that they do not suffer from chronic diseases or congenital defects.

Economic Resilience

The residence that the couples live in is generally owned, but built on land given to them by their parents. There are also couples who still live together at their parents' house because they do not have enough money to build their own house and their parents do not trust their children to live separately from their parents. The main family income generally comes from the husband who works as a construction worker, but there are also those who work other than construction workers, one of whom is a school guard, with an average family income of 1.6 - 2.1 million per month. The informants generally

have no difficulty in paying for electricity each month because the electricity that the family uses is a token type of electricity. However, there are also some families who have difficulty paying for electricity every month due to the husband's irregular income, so they experience arrears or borrow money first from their parents or closest relatives.

Couples who have children under five years old and have just entered elementary school in meeting the needs of financing children's education, informants admit that they do not mind and have never been in arrears in payments. However, there are also informants who have experienced difficulties in financing the education of children who have entered senior high school because the family income is not fixed due to the husband's job as a construction worker. In general, informants stated that their children had never dropped out of school, but usually their parents had dropped out of school which resulted in not having a graduation certificate.

The husband's main job as a construction worker and school guard makes it difficult for the family to have savings in the form of money due to the household needs that must be met every day. Although the family does not have savings in the form of money, they generally have savings in the form of livestock, rice fields, and jewelry. The family's income is very mediocre and is only enough to fulfill daily needs, which is the reason why the family does not use health insurance because the informants feel that if they use health insurance, there must be dependents who are paid every month. However, there are also informants who get KIS because the family deserves a healthy Indonesian card and has administrative completeness that can be submitted to get health insurance in the form of a healthy Indonesian card.

Social Psychological Resilience

In a married relationship, it is not impossible if there are no arguments with your partner. This is in accordance with what most informants in this study revealed. Quarrels usually occur due to insufficient household needs and child problems. The quarrels that occurred in the informants were generally carried out only verbally, but there were also those who stated that there was violence that hurt physically.

Apart from spouses, quarrels also often occur with children, the cause is because children are difficult to manage and do not want to obey what parents say, there are some parents who have not been able to manage emotions to their children so that there are children who experience physical violence such as being pinched by their parents. However, there are also families who rarely fight with their children because they always obey the orders and words of their parents. In general, it is rare for informants to state that they have been involved in legal problems, but there are also informants who have experienced legal problems, namely husbands who are often hit with tickets because they do not have a driver's license.

Socio-Cultural Resilience

In general, young married couples have parents who are not yet elderly. Even though they are not yet elderly, couples still care for and look after their parents. Social activities that informants often participate in in this village are such as recitation, posyandu, community service, and so on. However, there are statements from some informants who are less active in recitation activities because they still have toddlers so that informants feel inconvenienced if they bring the child to the recitation place. In addition to social activities, informants are active in religious activities organized in the village such as family prayers at home and in congregation at the mosque on a daily basis

and on Muslim holidays such as Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha prayers and celebrations of other Muslim holidays.

Discussion

The phenomenon of early marriage that occurs in Cigoletrak Village is motivated by a feeling of fear that if the girls do not immediately become spinsters and also a feeling of embarrassment with the surrounding neighbors whose children are married and want to immediately marry off their children who are no longer in school and also do not work. This is in line with the research of Pratiwi et al. (2019) which states that parents and the peer environment have a role in making decisions to marry at an early age, besides that, there is also fear from the wife if she does not get married soon, she will become an old maid. In addition, there are factors that cause early marriage, namely economy, environment, peers, and fear of causing slander. This is in line with the statement by Rumble et al. (2018) which states that an important factor in the occurrence of early marriage is due to low educational and wealth status and religious bigotry. In addition, parents still think that by marrying off their daughters at an early age they will avoid sexual harassment and the risk of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) (De Groot et al., 2018). There are findings that early marriages are generally siri marriages. Early marriage by siri is widely practiced by the community because it is easy to manage the requirements compared to legal marriage.

Early marriage couples pay less attention to the importance of family resilience in a family. Family resilience resulting from early marriages conducted siri has low family resilience. This is in line with research by Apriliani and Nurwati (2020) which states that the resilience of families that are built becomes porous due to various problems or other factors that eventually lead to divorce. There are many aspects in the dimensions of family resilience that are not fulfilled. It can be seen from the dimension of non-resilient economic resilience that affects family resilience in other dimensions. Poor economic resilience affects the difficulty of financing school education, because of this many people drop out of school. In addition, due to school dropouts, there is a lot of education and education that is not received by the local community, one of which is related to marriage readiness and the risks resulting from early marriage. Early marriages that occur in Cigolerak Village have become commonplace from the past until now so that parents do not prohibit if their children want to marry at an early age. Parents also do not prohibit if their children no longer want to go to school because parents find it difficult to meet the costs of their children's education so that many children experience school dropouts. From the habits of these parents, it becomes a habit for their descendants to marry early.

In general, the head of the family of early marriage couples in Cigoletrak Village works as a construction worker who migrates away from his family for a long time. Because of this work, there are also many risks that must be borne by the family, one of which is the division of roles carried out by couples where the husband is the breadwinner and the wife takes care of household needs. In line with the statement according to Muslimah (2019), long distance marriage (commuter marriage) is carried out, one of which is a career factor where each has a desire to maintain a marriage but voluntarily also chooses to maintain a career so that the couple feels a strong commitment. In addition, it is in line with Lutfatulatifah's research (2020) which states that the division of labor between men and women affects parental care for their children.

Families also pay less attention to balanced daily food needs, this is also due to a lack of education regarding the importance of nutritional fulfillment, especially for children who are still in their infancy. Because of this, it is not uncommon for families to experience nutritional problem. In line with the quote according to Lailani et al. (2022) that malnourished children will experience a decrease in endurance so that children are susceptible to infectious diseases, low levels of intelligence, decreased physical abilities, impaired physical and mental growth, stunting, blindness and death in children. Low education and education affect the emotional stability of couples which will have an impact on family harmony. Early marriage couples often quarrel, but only in the form of verbal arguments that do not cause physical harm. The quarrel is usually caused by a wife who is too tired to take care of her child alone, insufficient household needs, and unpleasant talk from the partner's family. This statement is in line with Rozalinda and Nurhasanah (2014) who state that the trigger for conflict in the household is usually caused by the increasing demands of household needs. Spouses often quarrel with their children both verbally and non-verbally, namely by pinching so that the child obeys the parents' wishes. In line with previous research by Maknun (2017) which states that immature parents still want to feel freedom, so they cannot be responsible for welfare, lack of parenting knowledge, parents who are not ready to understand the phase of child development, child needs, child behavior patterns, and cannot control emotions when children are angry.

The limitation of this research is that it still depends on the researcher's interpretation of the meaning of the interviews conducted so that the tendency for bias still exists. To reduce this bias, researchers carried out a triangulation process of data sources. Source triangulation is carried out by cross-checking the data with facts from different informants and the results of other research.

Conclusion and Recommendation

Conclusion

Early marriage is still a problem that occurs in Indonesia. The large number of people who carry out early marriages in Kampung Cigoletrak is due to the ease of arranging early marriages in a series so that this has become a culture that still exists today. The ease with which marriage is lived has an impact on husbands who are arbitrary to leave their wives and children because there is no official bond in marriage.

The impact of early marriage is not only psychological, emotional, level of mental readiness, and economic, but in fact there are many things that must be prepared before building a family so that the foundation is created to build good family resilience. The problem of early marriage that still occurs must be immediately addressed and given attention, especially in institutions that have the potential to overcome this. The community, especially adolescents, must always be given regular education and counseling related to the impact of early marriage. Counseling can be carried out in schools targeting students and in the community, assisted by a team of local cadres. The education provided is not only about the preparations made before marriage but also the adverse effects that will occur if carrying out a marriage without proper preparation, one of which is the impact related to family resilience so that later they can build a family with a strong level of resilience.

Recommendation

The government, such as the KUA (Office of Religious Affairs) and those concerned, conduct regular counseling to the local community regarding the dangers and adverse effects of early marriage, one of which is the impact on family resilience. Counseling can be carried out by local cadres who have previously attended several trainings so that they are not misinformed in tackling early marriage in the village. The local religious court must implement the marriage law in accordance with applicable regulations wisely and decisively and provide dispensation for early marriage to the community only in very urgent conditions where the solution can only be marriage. Community leaders such as local ustadz to be wiser in marrying people in series so that it is not too easy for people who want to marry at an early age. Awareness of the local community and concern for the surrounding environment to reduce or even minimize the habit of early marriage so that in the future the family can create strong family resilience in accordance with the achievements measured by the level of family resilience.

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