



Phenomenological Study: Women's Adjustment in Early Marriage Decisions

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Abstract. Early marriage is still a phenomenon in the neighborhood. Several factors cause someone to marry early. The purpose of this study is to give the readers an insight into a woman's adaptation in deciding the marriage age so that later, the number of early marriages can be indirectly reduced. The research method used is qualitative research based on the philosophy of postpositivism. Data collection techniques are triangulated (combined), and data analysis is inductive/qualitative. Data will be collected using in-depth interview techniques and documentary studies. In this case, researchers will study 3 women who marry at an early age. The results of this study show that most of the factors that cause early marriage are encouragement from parents and economic factors. The study results can describe self-adjustment in women who married early to get better.

Keywords: *Self-Adjustment; Early Marriage; Women; Decision Making*

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Introduction

Remembering Marriage Regulation No. 1 of 1974, marriage is permitted if the man is 19 and the woman is 16. In fact, since September 16, 2019, the DPR has approved changes to the law. Due to these changes, the legal age for marriage for men and women has been raised to 19. However, many children still marry under the age of 19. The government's policy in determining the minimum age limit for marriage is, of course, through a process and various considerations that have been seen from various points of view. This aims to ensure that both parties are genuinely mature regarding mental, psychological, religious, and responsibility aspects (Nasrulloh, 2022). According to a medical perspective, early marriage also hurts both the mother and the child who will be born.

From a social perspective, early marriage, as sociologists point out, can significantly reduce family harmony. This is primarily due to the emotional instability, the excitement of youth, and an immature way of thinking that often accompanies early marriages. Viewing this issue from various aspects, it becomes clear that early marriage has a detrimental impact. Hence, the government's stance only tolerates marriages over 19 for women (Farsya & Akmal, 2022).

Based on information obtained by the Directorate General of Strict Affairs, there were 34,000 requests for marriage arrangements between January and June 2020. Of the 97% of existing regulatory documents that are OK, 60% of marriage contract requests came from young people under 18 (Wijaya, 2020). Based on UNICEF data as of the end of 2022, Indonesia is ranked 8th in the world and 2nd in ASEAN, with almost 1.5 million cases. In addition, according to data from the Indonesian Ministry of Child Empowerment and Protection, religious courts received 55,000 requests for early marriage dispensation throughout 2022 or almost double the number of similar files in the previous year. Until 2022, women under 16, the most vulnerable group, will be the most affected by this case, namely 14.15%. This prevalence increased significantly during the COVID-19 pandemic, driven by increasing school dropout rates, declining family economic conditions, adherence to religion and customs, and the influence of peers who married early (Basra, 2023).

There are several factors underlying young couples deciding to get married for several reasons, such as practice, financial problems, or becoming pregnant outside a stable family structure (DP3A, 2020). Apart from that, other reasons underlying the occurrence of early marriage are sexual behavior, pregnancy outside of marriage, social, cultural, and traditional traditions, low level of education, economic disadvantage of both parents, geographical characteristics, and weak law enforcement (Sunaryanto, 2019). In essence, this phenomenon can also be avoided with guidance and monitoring from the role of parents. Parents have an essential role in directing their sons and daughters in their lives, especially in marriage. Parents receive the

gift of a child with the right to be guided and nurtured, which is the parent's responsibility, especially in preventing child marriage at an early age (Nasrulloh, 2022). It's important to emphasize that parents are not just passive observers but active participants in preventing early marriage, empowering them to take action.

One area in Indonesia that has many underage relationships is the Gresik Regime. However, this is not a situation that cannot be changed. Based on information from the Indonesian Ulema Council (MUI) Gresik District Court (PAD), from 2018 to July 2022, there were 958 cases of underage marriage candidates (Jawapos, 2022). On the other hand, the separation rate in the Gresik Government, East Java, continues to increase significantly every year. Since then, until last September, more than 1,900 people had requested legal separation. Common reasons for separation are due to financial variables, neglect, domestic violence, and divorce, on average, come from couples under the age group of 35 years and marriage duration under ten years (www.independensi.com, 2022).

The research results of Sari & Yanti (2018) reveal that immature psychological conditions cause teenagers to remain unstable and emotional, so they are less able to socialize and adapt. Teenagers who marry at an early age experience negative consequences such as pressure, discomfort, confusion, and regret. Women who marry as teenagers experience a more significant impact than men who marry as teenagers; this is related to the various forms of readiness that women who marry young must prepare (Hayatnnufus et al., 2019). Adolescent characteristics such as being emotionally unstable, not having the mature ability to resolve conflict, and not having mature thoughts about the future can trigger conflict in the household. Apart from that, there is a lack of mature attitudes among teenagers who marry young, are vulnerable to the occurrence of domestic violence, quarrels that lead to divorce, abandoned children due to poor economic conditions, and less responsibility towards family (Nasrulloh, 2022).

According to Basri in Surawan (2019), physically, a man and a woman are capable of having children when they reach maturity, but from a mental perspective, teenagers are still too young and not ready to control the family. Many families and relationships are forced to experience disaster and do not last long because they are too young. Marriage too young can also cause burdensome neuritis because of prolonged dissatisfaction and because of unreasonable feelings of stress. Financial development in marriage is significant because it helps turn the wheels of the family through marriage. The younger generation generally needs to gain knowledge about socio-economic problems. Even though individuals are expected to be able to meet family needs (Pohan, 2017). Viewed from an angle from a formative brain science perspective, as a person progresses over the years, it is natural that they will develop and become more mentally mature. However, let us look at it from a mental point of view. Puberty cannot be expected to develop at

this time because, in immaturity, they do not yet have a settled and stable character. They are still unsteady, and in the pre-adult period, they have no idea about friendship and financial matters. Teenagers still need to get used to mingling with outside society, do not have a long-lasting position, and sometimes still depend on others.

According to *Dariyo (2015)*, this will make it difficult for the household and sow the seeds of quarrels that will lead to divorce. Apart from that, the mental impact experienced when getting married early is an unpleasant change (*Surawan, 2019*). Self-change implies a unique cycle that plans to change how an individual behaves so that there is a more fitting relationship between the individual and his current situation. Given these limitations, humanity's capacity to establish a good relationship between humans and climate may be at its breaking point. Anxiety and feelings of hopelessness will come to individuals who marry at an early age. Disgrace and complaints about what happened, especially since the reason for early marriage was because of pregnancy without the presence of the father and mother. This activity will be an embarrassment for distant families and is not easy to eliminate.

Marriage, often a stepping stone to starting a family, requires a holistic readiness-physical, psychological, social, and economic. It is a dichotomous relationship, the most intimate and observed form of interaction between a man and a woman (*Itryah & Ananda, 2023*). Marriage is a socially sanctioned bond, encompassing sexual relations, control and care of children, and understanding of their respective roles as husband and wife. It is a significant statement of awareness and acceptance, symbolizing a new commitment to the social order. Marriage is a journey of building and strengthening together (*Fatawi in Ligit, 2016*).

According to *Hurlock & Elizabeth (2004)*, one of the factors underlying a marriage being said to be successful is age. *Anissa & Agustin (2012)* study strengthens the effective contribution of self-concept and emotional maturity to marital adjustment. The importance of an individual's age as a condition for marital status is an important point that should be considered because marriages carried out by couples who are not old enough hurt future life. One of the problems that can arise when getting married at an early age is related to adjustment. To create a harmonious family, couples who marry at an early age must be well prepared. Well-adapted people have a better understanding and acceptance of each individual's strengths and weaknesses, have a better understanding of themselves, have emotional stability, and can balance and adjust needs. Adjustment is significant for couples because its success can affect family harmony (*Saraswati & Sugiasih, 2020*). This adjustment problem is often experienced by couples who marry young. Many factors, including frustration, anxiety, maturity, family environment, economy, and social status, can influence this process.

Gardiner and Myers in Inarkombu & Kusumiati (2023) reveal that marriage provides not only individual benefits like closeness, responsibility, friendship, love and affection, sexual satisfaction, and companionship but also mutual benefits that can lead to profound changes in events. According to DeGenova and Rice in Ligit (2016), there are 12 characteristics of a happy marriage: correspondence, equal respect, love, kinship, otherworldliness, responsibility, friendship, ability to manage emergencies and stress, obligation, selflessness, compassion, and awareness—authenticity, trust, and loyalty, as well as versatility, adaptability, and resilience. DeGenova and Rice also revealed that in the cycle of change, each individual will change or change the way they behave so that they can communicate with their partner to achieve maximum satisfaction in the husband and wife relationship. Smith & Golmen in Hayatnnufus et al., (2019) highlight four aspects of marital adjustment: approval, closeness, satisfaction, and expressions of affection.

Marriage at a young age causes many unexpected problems due to psychological immaturity (Surawan, 2019). Because they are still so young in marriage, it is not uncommon for couples to experience family breakdown. Family harmony is not determined by age alone. Because everything is personal, however, it generally affects how older people think and act. Minors tend to solve problems, and disputes and conflicts are often resolved separately. In addition, couples who marry at a young age are socially and financially immature. Because they usually do not have long-lasting jobs, financial problems can cause families to fight. According to Juniasti (2018), couples who marry at a young age experience emotional instability due to difficulties in adjusting to marital conditions, which gives rise to many conflicts. The mental impact that arises when a teenager starts a family early is that he has dreams that he wants to achieve but are hampered by the status of husband and wife, problems in the family, emotional well-being, and preparation for starting a family.

Undergoing a first pregnancy and starting a family is a mother's obligation, which burdens her partner (Nasrulloh, 2022). Marriage has many impacts at an early age, including separation. One of the most common reasons for breaking up is arguments that occur between young couples. In terms of age, those aged 20 to 24 years who married before 18 had the highest divorce rate, namely 4.53 percent, while those who married after 18 had a lower divorce rate, namely 3.02 percent (Supriati, 2021). Poor marital adjustment is one of the leading causes of separation of young couples. Schneiders in Agustiani (2006) emphasized that marital adjustment is a process where partners adapt to each other and take on new roles, such as fostering open communication or encouraging each other to express their feelings.

Early marriage may also play a role in the high suicide rate among young women in South Asia. According to World Health Organization (WHO) data, the age-standardized ratio of male-to-

female suicide deaths in Southeast Asia (including Bangladesh, India, Nepal, and Sri Lanka) is 1.57:1 compared with a ratio of close to 3:1 in high-income countries shows a much smaller gender gap (WHO, 2019). Marriage is an essential developmental transition in a girl's life influenced by a complex interaction of physical, psychological, and social environmental factors. Social factors such as poverty, academic difficulties, and maladjustment, as well as mental health problems, can cause families and girls to decide to marry early (Roest, 2016).

Hurlock in Farsya & Akmal (2022) states that couples must adapt to each other during the first and second marriages. How to change jobs often creates different problems because the assumptions and ideal reality of the perpetrators are not in line. Both sexes are expected to become parents after marriage. This is a troublesome endeavor and requires intensive preparation from both. This planning is the ability to live through the cycle of change. According to Spanier in Farsya & Akmal (2022), to determine the degree of change between husband and wife, basically, there are several points of view that must be estimated directly from dyadic fulfillment, especially the degree of fulfillment in the husband-wife relationship or perceived fulfillment. By each accomplice in their relationship, dyadic unity, precisely the degree of closeness or sensation of harmony shared by two or three people, indicates how much several people perform different practices together. Third, dyadic agreement, namely the level of understanding or agreement between partners regarding various problems in marriage, and finally, articulation of friendship, especially the level of agreement in communicating sexual sentiments and relationships as well as existing issues related to these issues.

One of the essential things in marital adjustment is the extent to which agreement is reached between husband and wife regarding the roles of each individual (Anjani & Suryanto, 2006). Spanier in Puspitasari & Satiningsih (2014), marital adjustment is a predictive measurement regarding the possibility of adjustment in the future. This means that if the marriage adjustments are wrong in the early stages of marriage, subsequent adjustments will be wrong too, or even lead to divorce in the future, highlighting the long-term implications of early marital adjustments.

Marital adjustment is a state where the husband and wife feel happy and satisfied with their marriage and between the two of them. It's a process that requires a high level of mutual understanding, a critical factor in successful adjustment. Married couples will have many expectations, ranging from realistic to unrealistic. Adjustment in marriage necessitates a level of maturity and mutual understanding between the couple. The concept of adjustment in marriage itself is two individuals learning to accommodate each other's needs, desires, and hopes, which is a continuous learning process. It is a long process because each person undergoes changes in behavior that may only sometimes be significant.

Marital adjustment (dyadic adjustment), according to Spanier (Farsya & Akmal, 2022), has four aspects; the first is satisfaction (satisfaction), which explains satisfaction with decisions in marriage as indicated by the frequency of arguments, complaints in marriage, and how committed each individual is to maintaining the marriage relationship. The second aspect is consensus, which explains the level of agreement between couples regarding various important marriage decisions, such as religion, household work, or their compatibility with each other. The third aspect is cohesion, which explains the cohesiveness of a couple, which includes solidarity in working together, sharing interests, and carrying out activities together. Cohesion involves emotional ties or how close a married couple feels to each other. The final aspect is affectional expression, which explains the expression level of feelings of love and sexual relations. This dimension explains how husband and wife show affection for each other.

Meanwhile, self-adjustment is a deeply personal journey, a testament to an individual's acceptance of themselves. It's not about hating, running away, getting annoyed, or doubting oneself. It's a process that requires understanding, compassion, and self-belief (Hayatnufus et al., 2019).

Early marriage also occurs in several sub-districts of Gresik Regency, one of which is Karangpoh Sub-district. In preliminary interviews with informants in Karangpoh Village, Gresik District, the informants stated that, on average the informants answered that in getting married at a young age, there were many challenges and obstacles, such as economic challenges, where once married, the wife became the husband's responsibility, and the husband felt embarrassed. If you cannot support your wife, the second is an emotional problem, where, at a young age, the emotions of both parties are still unstable, and an ego problem, where both parties sometimes still like to prioritize their egos. This often triggers arguments in the household. In this case, self-adjustment is a psychological process in which a person adapts or meets the desires and challenges of daily life (Witten & Lloyd, 2006). Adjustment regarding marriage is a situation where all feelings of happiness and satisfaction between husband and wife are felt when running the household. Couples have many expectations, some realistic and some unrealistic. Marriage adjustments require maturity and the growth and development of understanding between the two partners. According to Witten & Lloyd (2006), marital adjustment is when two people learn to respond to each other's needs, desires, and expectations. Marriage adjustments are also a long process because each couple has to make marriage adjustments where each person can change.

According to Hurlock (in Octavia, 2014), the first and most important problem a person must face when entering the world of marriage is adjusting to their partner (wife or husband). The second adaptation problem, besides pair adaptation, is sexual adaptation. Financial adjustments also have a significant impact on individual marital settlements. Young wives in their

teens have little experience managing finances for family survival, and sometimes husbands have difficulty adjusting to finances. The fourth problem in married life is adjusting to your husband's family. When you get married, you automatically become a member of a new family of couples of different ages, education, cultures, and backgrounds. Husband and wife must learn and adapt if they want to maintain their relationships with relatives. It is crucial to understand the factors that cause early marriage, as this research aims to address this issue effectively and reduce the rate of early marriage.

Methods

The research method used is qualitative research. This method, based on the philosophy of postpositivism, is particularly suited for studying the conditions of natural objects (as opposed to experiments). In this approach, the researcher becomes the key instrument, data collection techniques are triangulated (combined), and data analysis is inductive/qualitative. The results of qualitative research, emphasizing the meaning of generalization, are particularly insightful. Phenomenological studies are vital to this research method (Sugiyono, 2019). For data collection, we utilize in-depth interview techniques and documentation studies. In this specific study, we focus on three women who married at an early age in Karangpoh Village, Gresik District. Our informants are unique in that these women have had early marriages, aged between 17-22 years, married for at least six months to 3 years, and residing in Karangpoh Village, Gresik District. The object of research in this case is women's adjustment in the decision to marry at an early age.

Researchers made transcripts of interviews with informants into text per question. Then, each text is annotated with the subject's identity using a pseudonym to maintain the anonymity of the subject's identity and to facilitate data processing. Recording devices, notes, and transcripts are stored safely by researchers. Researchers used triangulation data validation techniques, namely using source triangulation by interviewing close friends and family members of the subject to ensure the accuracy and reliability of the information the researcher received (Moleong, 2017).

Results

Factors Causing Early Marriage

After conducting interviews with resource persons, the causes of early marriages that occur in Karangpoh Village, Gresik District is as follows:

a. Encouragement from parents

There are several reasons why parents in Karangpoh Village, Gresik District, marry off their children at an immature age (early). The parents' economic conditions in this village are

entirely lacking, resulting in parents only focusing on earning a living without paying attention to their children's social interactions. Low parental education also contributes to a lack of knowledge about the dangers of promiscuity. Additionally, the level of understanding of parents' religion causes them not to pay too much attention to their children's morals or behavior (Surawan, 2019). Based on interviews conducted in this specific context, parents advise their children to get married as soon as possible to avoid neighbors talking because they have been dating for a long time and to avoid unwanted things. This was expressed by 4 out of 5 interviewees that:

"We've been dating for 2 years before. His parents also know because he likes to play at home. Well, parents are afraid if something happens, especially since they've been dating for a long time. Parents don't think so. What are you afraid of getting pregnant in the first place? So it's better to get married first, if you want to get pregnant later, it's okay as long as it's legal first."

Another source also stated that "On your own and follow the advice of your parents too. Yes, we've been dating for a long time since middle school."

"Because I do not feel good either, sis. Because the neighbors already knew that I was dating first. I have also been dating him for a long time. So it is often suspected because I often play here, and my sister also often goes there; what do I think I am doing? That is why my neighbors from this area recommended that I marry. So that there is no bad prejudice from neighbors."

"Yes, at that time, because we both liked you, sis. My parents were also parents who understood religion, so when I introduced my boyfriend, I immediately told him to get married, sis, to avoid adultery."

Based on interviews conducted by researchers, 90% of the causes of early marriage in Karangpoh Village, Gresik District, were due to encouragement from parents, while 10% married because of the family's financial conditions. This shows that there is a need for counseling or additional insight regarding the impact of early marriage to be given to the community, especially parents.

b. Family economic conditions

Some parents are aware of their plans for marriage because their children are no longer in school and have only finished junior high school due to economic factors. Namely, there is no money to continue school, causing them to think it is better to get married than to be unemployed. Low economic conditions make early marriage perpetrators decide to get married. No school fees are the reason for them to drop out of school. The interviewee stated that he got married. He did not go to school because he did not have the money to continue his studies. Even though they want to stay in school, their parents' economic conditions worry; they cannot afford to send their children to school. So parents would be happier if they went to work to help them rather than go to school, and instead of living in conditions where they did not go to school, whether they were happy or not, they finally decided to get married.

"Yes, I did not go to high school, sis, so there were no school fees then, so I worked as a laborer ironing neighbors' clothes. I got two years of work, and suddenly, my husband proposed to me; at that time, he was three years older than me, sis, and he was already working as a coolie in the market. At that time, I thought, well, let us get married; love can grow by itself, sis. So I told my mother and father I was willing to marry."

Apart from the lack of school fees, the hope of better economic changes by getting married is a reason for early marriage. Several informants decided to get married because they were not busy and did not continue their studies because there were no school fees. Apart from that, their parents did not give much insight into school, so they hoped that getting married could lead to economic changes for the better, and they wanted to improve their economy. By getting married, living conditions are expected to get better.

However, some do not expect the economy to improve by marrying early, or in other words, they hope that by getting married, the economy will change for the better. Early marriage occurs because the economic conditions in the family are classified as poor or at the poverty line. In order to lighten the burden on parents, their daughters are married off to men considered capable. Parents think that if their daughter proposes and asks to get married, she will be independent and no longer dependent on her parents because she already has a husband ready to provide for her. However, it is not uncommon for them to marry with economic statuses that are not much different, thus giving rise to new poverty and new problems.

Impact of Early Marriage

Perpetrators of early marriage, both men and women, do not fully understand the impact of early marriage. Because I did not prepare myself for marriage. Early marriage occurs because they marry to improve the economy apart from environmental factors and are influenced by parental encouragement. Socio-economic maturity in marriage is necessary because it is a buffer in turning the wheels of the family due to marriage (Surawan, 2019). From the descriptions of several sources, the impact of early marriage is as follows:

a. Family economics

Some informant parents hope that marrying their daughters will be a solution to reduce the family's economic burden because daily living needs such as food, clothing, and shelter are the husband's responsibility. However, this often only materializes if the economic conditions of the female and male families are the same. What is happening is that the economic condition is not getting better; it is even getting worse. Because the increase in the number of existing families creates more significant economic pressure on households and resources, low or non-existent income means they continue to experience difficulties in fulfilling their daily lives. This causes the

emergence of a new cycle of poverty in the family. Moreover, there needs to be more readiness from an economic perspective.

"At least, it is hard to make money, so I cannot care for my face. Buying clothes is also difficult. Children are more important now. "Now you are not just taking care of yourself, sis; there are your children and your husband."

"The impact was an economic problem, sis. At that time, I thought my husband was also working, so maybe our finances were sufficient, but I only thought for a short time that the necessities were now expensive, sis. So, the economy is constrained. Regarding communication, it is not important, sis; the important thing is to chat occasionally when it is important. For example, if you want to borrow money from the bank or something like that, it is important to discuss it first."

Based on the interview results, early marriage has an unstable financial impact. This is because husbands still need to be financially stable and also find it challenging to get a job with a good salary due to their limited knowledge and only having a diploma from high school or even middle school. With limited choices of types of work, meeting daily needs becomes easier. This adds to depression, and household conditions become chaotic. The behavior of early marriage experiences pressure after pressure.

b. Emotions that are less stable

Marriages that are too young invite many unexpected problems because the psychological aspects are immature, such as anxiety and stress. Divorce occurs because the husband leaves and is irresponsible or unable to adapt as a married couple.

"Yes, sis, I still cannot control my emotions, especially when I am tired of caring for the house and want to get angry. Likewise, when my husband comes home from work when he has many problems at work, instead of telling me, he plays games and gets angry later, sis. So I am less able to regulate my emotions, sis. "Then my husband also rarely helps me, so I have asked him to, but he does not do it, sis; instead, he keeps playing games."

"In a new household like this, they usually like to fight. About children, about food. My child's food was salty, I protested. Usually, they fight because of children. If you run out of food or your child's needs and forget to tell you, you will get hit again."

Based on the results of the interview, unstable emotions are one of the factors that cause arguments.

c. Socialrelations

Humans are social creatures who cannot be separated from other humans. Wherever and whenever they are, they will always depend on other people. For this reason, humans always relate to or interact with other humans, either individually or in groups. Of course, there is a reciprocal relationship in this interaction process.

"There has been a change in people who used to like being free to go everywhere, but now they are no longer free because they already have someone to care for."

Another source also stated that:

"The disadvantage is that you are not satisfied, sis, you are not satisfied with enjoying your youth. If you are still young, you can play here and there. If you already have a wife, you are not free, sis."

Besides that, early marriage impacts the welfare of the family and society. Women who are less educated and not ready to carry out their role as mothers will be less able to educate their children, so children will grow and develop poorly, which can be detrimental to the child's future. On the other hand, parents who marry at the ideal age can educate their children as well as possible. With their maturity, parents who marry at the ideal age can guide their children to become intelligent children who suit the needs of the world of education.

Based on the results of the interview above, the data transcription results were obtained as follows:

Table 1.
Results of Interview Data Transcription

| Indicator | Data Transcription Results | Code |
|--------------------------------|--|------------------------|
| Factors Causing Early Marriage | <i>"We have been dating for two years before. His parents also know because he likes to play at home. Parents are afraid if something happens, especially since they have been dating for a long time. Parents do not think so. What are you afraid of getting pregnant in the first place? So it is better to get married first; if you want to get pregnant later, it is okay if it is legal first."</i> | Parental Encouragement |
| | <i>"On your own and follow the advice of your parents too. Yes, we have been dating for a long time since middle school."</i> | |
| | <i>"Because I do not feel good either, sis. Because the neighbors already knew that I was dating first. I have also been dating him for a long time. So it is often suspected because I often play here, and my sister also often goes there; what do I think I am doing? That is why my neighbors from this area recommended that I marry. So that there is no bad prejudice from neighbors."</i> | |
| | <i>"Yes, at that time, because we both liked you, my parents were also parents who understood religion, so when I introduced my boyfriend, I immediately told him to marry me to avoid adultery."</i> | |
| | <i>"Yes, I did not go to high school, sis, so there were no school fees then, so I worked as a laborer ironing neighbors' clothes. After getting two years of work, my husband suddenly proposed to me; at that time, he was three years older than me, sis, and he was already working as a coolie in the market. At that time, I thought, well, let us get married; love can grow by itself, sis. So I told my mother and father I was willing to marry."</i> | Economy |
| Impact of Early Marriage | <i>"At least, it's hard to make money, so I can't take care of my face. Buying clothes is also difficult. Children are more important now. "Now you're not just taking care of yourself, sis; there are your children and your husband."</i> | Economy |
| | <i>"The impact was an economic problem, sis. At that time, I thought my husband was also working, so maybe our finances were sufficient, but I did not think for a long time that the necessities were now expensive, sis. So, the economy is constrained. When it comes to communication, I do not think it is important, sis; the important thing is to just chat once in a while when it is important. For example, if you want to borrow money from the bank or something like that, it is important to discuss it first."</i> | |

| | | |
|--|--|----------------------|
| | <p><i>"Yes, sis, I still cannot control my emotions, especially when I am tired of caring for the house and want to get angry. Likewise, when my husband comes home from work when he has many problems at work, instead of telling me, he plays games and gets angry later, sis. So I am less able to regulate my emotions, sis. "Then my husband also rarely helps me, so I have asked him to, but he does not do it, sis; instead, he keeps playing games."</i></p> | Less Stable Emotions |
| | <p><i>"In a new household like this, they usually like to fight. About children, about food. My child's food was salty, I protested. Usually, they fight because of children. If you run out of food or your child's needs and forget to tell you, you will get hit again."</i></p> | |
| | <p><i>"There has been a change in people who used to like being free to go everywhere, but now they are no longer free because they already have someone to care for."</i></p> | Social Relations |
| | <p><i>"The disadvantage is that you are not satisfied, sis; you are not satisfied with enjoying your youth. If you are still young, you can play here and there. If you already have a wife, you are not free, sis."</i></p> | |

Discussion

Factors Causing Early Marriage

Based on the results of interviews conducted by researchers, it was found that the factors of early marriage in Karangpoh Village, Gresik District, there is encouragement from parents and the family's economic conditions.

a. Encouragement from parents

The role of parents is vital in determining whether teenagers marry at a young age. Parents who have limited understanding, especially about reproductive health and children's rights, tend to marry off their children. Parents have a significant role in the incidence of early marriage. Parents also significantly delay children's marriage age (Harsoyo & Widyastomo, 2022). Then, according to Karim & Prasetyo (2017), if a child experiences a pregnancy out of wedlock, the parents will immediately marry off their child because they do not want to be a disgrace to the family. They will ask the court for dispensation so they can marry off their children even though they are still young and underage. Parents also have the perspective that if their child reaches adulthood, they will immediately be married off because they are afraid of doing something immoral that they do not want (Anggraeni et al., 2016). Parents with economic difficulties will also immediately marry off their children to reduce the family's economic burden. Azlan in Harsoyo & Widyastomo (2022) states that many parents match their children with their friends' children because they want a closer relationship, so they tend to hasten their children's marriages. Parents are the highest decision-makers in the family, so parental desires cause many early marriages in society.

b. Family economic conditions

One of the factors that causes parents to marry off their children is low economic problems, which encourages people to marry early to reduce the family's economic burden.

Considering the weak economy, parents marry off their children in the hope of helping them earn a living so they can fulfill their daily lives. They assume that married children will be the husband's responsibility, reducing the burden on family life. They also think that after their child marries, their husband can help increase their family's economic income. This is based on research conducted by Sunaryanto (2019), which states that marrying off one's children can help the family's economy and reduce the economic burden. Some teenagers marry to improve economic conditions for themselves and their families.

The results of this research are in line with research conducted by Pratiwi et al. (2019), which revealed that child marriage occurred due to the cessation of education, economic factors, not wanting to be a burden on parents, lack of knowledge about the impact of getting married at a young age, and no other activities after dropping out of school. Ahmad (2011) states that Gunung Sindur teenagers marry early because it helps the family's economy, does not become a burden on their parents, and can help their parents finance the lives of their parents and younger siblings. This is because they think that after their child marries, their husband can help increase their family's economic income. This research is in line with research (Harsoyo & Widyastomo, 2022), which states that one of the factors for early marriage is a lack of economic factors so that when they get married, it will reduce the burden on the family can even help improve the family's economy.

Based on economic factors, the general public believes that early marriage may be caused by family economics, work, and the desire to obtain a better life. Usually, the encouragement of early marriage is more due to the family's financial conditions, where the family's economic function is intended to fulfill and regulate the economy of family members, especially work and income. The level of a person's income will affect a person's way of life. A person's weak or poor economic condition will lead to early marriage. Research by Pohan (2017) found that young women who have a low economic status are 3,285 times more likely to marry early than their peers who have a better economic level.

Impact of Early Marriage

The impact of early marriage is less stable family economy, less stable emotions and social relationships.

a. The family economy is less stable

For couples who marry early, their education could be more optimal. Education ultimately limits their access to good employment opportunities. This makes it difficult for couples who marry early to improve their financial condition. Early marriage is also prone to giving birth to low-income families because of low education and, therefore, low access to jobs. Financial

uncertainty is vulnerable to making new families poor. The couple immediately became pregnant and had children. Needs become more numerous and urgent, while their abilities as parents need to improve. In the end, many parents divorce because of the family's financial failure.

Munib (2023) stated that the economic impact on perpetrators of early marriage is that marriages carried out under age are often not yet established in terms of fulfillment of economic needs. So, it is feared that this will trigger domestic violence. Increasingly tricky economic conditions: Underage marriages are often carried out where the groom still needs to be fully ready to support his family or financially ready. The limited opportunities to get work automatically perpetuate poverty (low family economic status due to minimal education); a person with low education can only work as a laborer, so he cannot explore his abilities. Poverty: Two children who marry underage tend not to have enough income or even not to work. This statement is reinforced by Ahmad (2011), which states that economic factors are always in the spotlight in every case of early marriage because the education of early marriage perpetrators is less than optimal, resulting in limited job opportunities. In line with this, (Harsoyo & Widayastomo, 2022) stated that one of the impacts of early marriage is an unstable economy due to complex work. This is due to the husband's and wife's low education, making it difficult to find work, which impacts the family's economy. This can also increase depression and make household conditions chaotic. The behavior of early marriage experiences pressure after pressure.

b. Emotions that are less stable

Married husband and wife will face various problems that arise in family life. It is hoped that married couples have high emotional maturity to make the right decisions when faced with conflict (Fibrianti et al., 2022). Emotions play an essential role in one's marriage, and proper emotional maturity is necessary for practical living. Success in the household depends on the emotional maturity of both husband and wife. One of the characteristics of individual maturity can be seen from a psychological perspective. Emotional maturity is an essential point of view in maintaining harmony in married life. People who are not emotionally mature will find it difficult to adjust when faced with situations that endanger the integrity of the household. It is undoubtedly challenging for people who are emotionally immature if they are forced to adapt to all the situations and conditions in married life and the surrounding environment.

The above statement is supported by research conducted by Saraswati & Sugiasih (2020) and Sharma (2018), which states that couples in early marriages do not have high emotional maturity. The risk of emotional immaturity in early partners is very high, mainly because early partners are unable to control their emotions, which can cause rifts in the household. Here, emotional maturity plays an essential role in uniting two different characters.

Marital adjustment is needed to jointly understand the differences between husband and wife in a marriage relationship, which is strongly related to the couple's harmony and creates happiness and satisfaction in domestic life. The high rate of early marriage in Indonesia has resulted in various problems, one of which is the high divorce rate. The reason why early married couples divorce is because the couple cannot adjust their marriage well (Fadhila, 2021). Marital adjustment here plays a significant role. Suppose an individual reaches a high level of emotional maturity when facing a complex problem. In that case, this self-adjustment can be used to find an effective solution and may even have a negative effect. Adaptation is a person's skill in adapting to their life, environment, and, most importantly, their partner.

Mariyani (2018) states that marital adjustment and emotional maturity have a strong relationship. It can be concluded that marital adjustment is inversely proportional to emotional maturity. The marital adjustment process requires the characteristics of each individual in the marriage. Apart from these characteristics, there is the skill of expressing feelings better with their partner. This skill is called emotional maturity. Harsoyo & Widyastomo (2022) also stated that in early marriage, feelings of anxiety and depression will arise for those who marry at an early age. Shame and regret about what happened, especially since the cause of early marriage was pregnancy out of wedlock. This action will be a disgrace to the extended family and will be difficult to remove. Based on interviews with most subjects, they said they regretted marrying at a young age.

c. Social relations

Early married couples, much like their peers in society, grapple with relationships with parents and neighbors. However, they face a unique set of challenges stemming from societal expectations. Their daily habits, such as waking up late or being reserved, are often misinterpreted as laziness or shyness. The responsibility of managing a household, a task they may not be fully prepared for, further adds to their burden (Ahmad, 2011).

Meanwhile, Munib (2023) stated that women are placed in a low position and are only considered complementary to men's sex. If a divorce occurs, a teenager will have unstable emotions and cannot control their own emotions; this is if in life after marriage there is a problem; the couple often has conflict, so there is a dislike for the partner, which can result in divorce; interaction with peers is reduced. For underage married couples, this can affect their relationships with peers. They will feel awkward or reluctant to socialize with their peers. Research conducted by Surawan (2019), it was stated that people who marry at an early age feel embarrassed when gathering with friends or surrounding circles, so interactions and social relationships with other people are not very good. Khaerani (2019) also states that the impact of early marriage is minimal socialization with other people, especially when the factor in the marriage is pregnancy outside

of marriage. They will feel embarrassed to face other people, so they limit themselves and have poor social relationships with other people.

Furthermore, the impacts of early marriage extend to education and childcare. Young couples often struggle with providing adequate education and care for their children, leading to low childcare skills and an imperfect function as a mother and wife. This, in turn, can trigger feelings of insecurity, shame, or frustration. As Fadilah (2021) points out, these changes in their lives can be overwhelming, as they find their personal space and freedom curtailed by the obligations of caring for their husbands and children.

Conclusion

The conclusion that can be drawn from this research is that the factors causing early marriage are parental encouragement and economic factors. Parents marry their children at a young age for several reasons, one is that it can strengthen friendships and help with the family's economic affairs. Family economic factors can also trigger early marriage because marriage can reduce the family's economic burden. Meanwhile, the impact of early marriage is a less stable family economy, less stable emotions, and poor social relationships.

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