



Premarital Counseling: The Influence of Islamic Religious Counselors at Kua Kenjeran District to Educate the Culture of Early Marriage

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ABSTRACT

Every human being is born and created in pairs, and God has endowed humans with feelings of love, lust, and reason; besides that, it is human nature as social beings who cannot live alone. Marriage is a physical and spiritual bond between a man and a woman as husband and wife. Form a *sakinah* and eternal family based on the One and Only God. This study aims to determine the factors behind the occurrence of early marriage and provide an understanding to adolescents in KUA Kenjeran Regency on the psychological impact of early marriage. This study uses descriptive qualitative research methods. Observation, interviews, and documentation do data collection.

Keywords: *Early Marriage, Premarital Counseling, Islamic Religious*

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INTRODUCTION

Marriage is a sacred bond that unites two people from different backgrounds and genders (K. Hu dkk., 2020), so direction (Hegde & Mishra, 2019), guidance and counselling are needed that are experts in their fields that are useful for achieving physical and spiritual happiness (Gast & Mathes, 2019). Marriage aims to form a happy, eternal family based on belief in the One and Only God (Steptoe & Zaninotto, 2020). This is under the formulation in Law Number 1 of 1974 article 1: 'Marriage is a physical and spiritual bond between a woman and a man as husband and wife to form a happy and eternal family (household) based on Godhead.'

The Almighty' However, looking at the current reality, many prospective husbands are physically mature (Jenkins dkk., 2020). However, they still need to be mentally mature (Sewnet Amare dkk., 2022) because life after marriage is different when you are single and still prioritizing yourself (Hanach dkk., 2023). However, when you are married (Wickrama dkk., 2020), you do not just take care of yourself but take

care of your husband/wife and children especially the position of a woman is very important in a household that must be able to take care of everything including finances. Premarital counselling, namely providing knowledge, understanding and skills in a short time to prospective brides about household/family life. The purpose of premarital counselling is to increase understanding and knowledge about household life, which creates a Sakinah Mawaddah (Rosenfeld & Roesler, 2021), wa Rahmah family (Harvey dkk., 2022), and can reduce disputes, divorce and domestic violence (Osei-Tutu dkk., 2020). Marriage at a young age can occur in both rural and urban environments. Even though early marriage is prohibited by law, even though it is prohibited, it still occurs in many communities.

Landung stated that early marriage is a marriage carried out at an age that violates the rules of the marriage law (Yang dkk., 2019), namely women less than 19 years and men less than 19 years (Gradus dkk., 2020). Some communities carry out many factors from behaviour that influence marriage at an early age. According to Mukson, early marriage is a marriage contract held at an age under the suitability of the applicable regulations (Nguyen dkk., 2020). Law Number 1 of 1974 and the Compilation of Islamic Law contain important principles that must be fulfilled in marriage, including the principle of maturity or maturity of the prospective bride and groom.

According to Roumali & Vindari, there are several factors that cause early marriage, namely: level of education, the lower the level of education encourages marriage at a young age. Attitudes and relationships with parents, marriage can take place because of obedience or opposition from adolescents to parents, as a way out of problems, for example, economic difficulties—beliefs in various areas that are still ancient, community factors.

Roumali & Vindari added that several impacts occur from early marriage, including physiological (Lai dkk., 2020), psychological and socio-economically. Physiologically, the reproductive organs are still not ready to accept the pregnancy so it can cause complications (J. Hu dkk., 2020). Psychologically, young couples are still psychologically immature (Jiang dkk., 2019); this impacts divorce because many divorces occur in relatively young couples (Liu dkk., 2021). Socio-economically, the older a person is, the more likely he is to mature in the economic field. With increasing age, the stronger the urge to make a living.

It is common for teenagers in the KUA work area of Kenjeran District to marry at a young age. Most marriages at an early age are carried out by someone who is not prepared psychologically, biologically or socio-economically. This study aimed to discover the factors behind the occurrence of self-marriage and to provide understanding to adolescents in Kenjeran about the psychological impact of early marriage (Kovalakova dkk., 2020). This research is motivated by the high early marriage and divorce rate in the Kenjeran sub-district community.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This research was conducted at the KUA Kenjeran sub-district. Researchers used descriptive qualitative research (Zhou dkk., 2020). namely a research conducted by observing phenomena directly about what is being experienced by research subjects holistically in a descriptive way (Huang dkk., 2020), namely by using forms in the form of words and language according to natural contexts.

Data collection techniques were carried out through observation and in-depth interviews with informants by asking several questions in the form of interview guidelines and documentation (Arvanitis dkk., 2020). Furthermore, data analysis was carried out through several stages, namely, the stage of data validity and data analysis techniques.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Based on the survey results obtained from the interview results (Cui dkk., 2019), it can be concluded that there are several factors behind the occurrence of early marriage at the KUA Kenjeran sub-district, including Individual Factors; this happens because of individual desires that are influenced by the surrounding environment. In addition, invitations (seductions) from boyfriends/girlfriends to get married at a young age because they are considered to have been dating too long (Zhao dkk., 2019). The parental attention factor occurs because of the lack of control or attention given by parents to their children. For most of them, their parents work as migrant workers, and there is a lack of supervision of their children which causes them to be wrong in the association so that they have sex outside of marriage so that marriage at an early age cannot be avoided.

The educational factor, most individuals who marry at an early age only graduate from elementary/junior high school on average (Lövdén dkk., 2020). The low level of education an individual has affects one's thinking pattern and insight (Poelman dkk., 2021). Cultural factors of the local community and cultural background greatly influence the lives of individuals and families in the community (Hofseth dkk., 2020). This happens because of the influence of parents, such as arranged marriages that prioritize kinship between families, the image of not wanting to be called an 'old maid' makes both parents marry off their children at a young age.

There are several psychological impacts arising from early marriage, including. Economic impact, Couples who marry early still need to be economically independent. Various needs in the family become pressure economically (Duan & Zhu, 2020). In terms of work, they still need to be well-established because they work odd jobs (just as they are). In addition, the low level of education makes it difficult to get a job with a decent wage/income to meet their daily needs. This results in economic dependence on parents/in-laws (Lu dkk., 2020). Social impact, Those who marry at an early age tend to be the subject of discussion because the impression or view of society is negative (Tull dkk., 2020). In addition, the understanding of the role as wife/husband has not been properly understood due to the lack of unified communication and Psychological impact

(Gulati dkk., 2020); the high emotional state experienced indicates the many pressures faced by the couple (Romer & Jamieson, 2020). The existence of a high ego between husband and wife is vulnerable to causing domestic violence (Wang dkk., 2020). Couples who marry early are not ready to face their new parental roles. Here the role of Islamic religious counsellors is very influential in providing premarital education, premarital education, premarital therapy and marriage preparation programs. Premarital counselling is a process given to prospective couples to know, understand and accept so that they are physically and mentally prepared before entering a marriage.

Knowing, understanding and accepting involves not only the two partners (Fahlman dkk., 2019). Nevertheless, this relationship will involve the two extended families of the potential partner. It is only easy to accept the different characteristics of each person if we know and understand them well. Religious counsellors generally apply premarital counselling through information and consulting services (Albanna dkk., 2019). It aims to provide information service assistance for youth to make appropriate and correct decisions based on the information obtained. One of the materials delivered to individuals is to provide understanding and awareness to adolescents regarding the goals of the Maturity of Marriage Age (PUP).

CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the research that has been done, early marriage has a psychological impact on young couples. In addition, other impacts arising from early marriage are from economic and social aspects. Premarital counselling held by Islamic religious counsellors to reduce the culture of early marriage at the KUA Kenjeran sub-district effectively provides youth with an understanding of the importance of maturing at the age of marriage.

Suggestions for the community are to provide support or attention to the younger generation so that as the nation's next generation, they can always develop themselves, create and innovate through work.

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