

Determining factors for the incidence of early marriage in Marga Mulya Village, East Kikim District, Lahat Regency

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**Determining factors for the incidence of early marriage in Marga Mulya Village,
East Kikim District, Lahat Regency**

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Abstract

Background: Early marriage is a normal or informal marriage performed under the age of 18. Early marriage is a marriage performed at the age of <20 years. Early marriage is a global problem, according to the National Population and Family Planning Board, (2010), approximately 11% of Indonesia's population is married at the age of 15 and 18% of adolescents aged 18 are married. An estimated 142 million girls (14.2 million annually) were married before the age of 18 from 2011 to 2020.

Purpose: To determinant factors that influence the incidence of early marriage in Marga Mulya Village, East Kikim District, Lahat Regency in 2021.

Method: Type of quantitative research with cross sectional design. The population of this study were all officially registered marriages in Marga Mulya Village, East Kikim District, Lahat Regency with a total of 90 couples using the slovin formula technique. The sample of this research is 74 respondents, this research instrument uses a questionnaire. Data analysis used for univariate frequency distribution, bivariate analysis using chi square test (Continuity Correction) and multivariate analysis using multiple regression.

Results: In this study it showed that there was an influence of knowledge (0.019), family support (0.0019) and local culture (0.005) having a significant influence on early marriage in young women with a significance level of p-value < significant value and the most dominant factor influencing is the local culture variable with the highest exp (B) value of 5.336.

Conclusion: There is a significant relationship between knowledge, family support and local culture with the incidence of early marriage with a probability value <0.05. In addition, local culture has the most dominant influence with a magnitude of 5,336 compared to 7 other variables.

Suggestion: It is hoped that this research can develop health promotion programs and empower young women and efforts to free them from poverty in rural areas.

Keywords: Early Marriage; Economic Status; Education; Family Support; Family Trust; Knowledge; Local Culture; Mass Media Exposure; Premarital Pregnancy.

INTRODUCTION

Child marriage at the age of approximately 18 years is often called early marriage, Marriage Law Number 1 of 1974 allows a woman aged 16 to marry, while Health Law Number 36 of 2009 provides a limit of 20 years (Prihutomo, 2018). Early marriage is a marriage carried out at the age of < 20 years. Early marriage is a global problem, one third or around

250 million children are married before the age of 15 (Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection of the Republic of Indonesia, 2022). It is estimated that 142 million girls (14.2 million per year) will marry before the age of 18 from 2011 to 2020, and 151 million girls will marry before the age of 18 from 2021 to 2030 (Ministry of Health of the Republic

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of Indonesia, 2015; Luthfia, Utami, & Ariyanti, 2021⁹

In Indonesia, 1 in 9 girls married at the age of 20-24 years who were married before 18 years in 2018 is estimated to reach around 1,220,900 and this figure places Indonesia in the 10 highest countries in the world. In the last 10 years, there has only been a small decline in child marriage in Indonesia, namely 3.5 percent. In 2018, 11.21 percent of women 20-24 years old married before they were 18 years old (Central Bureau of Statistics, 2020).

Based on South Sumatra Women's Empowerment and Child Protection Service data, child marriages in 2020 were still the same as in 2019, namely 13 percent, while from data from the South Sumatra Ministry of Religion in 2020 the number of marriages carried out by all ages was 58,715 cases (Agustin, 2021). This shows that the number of early marriages occurs at 7,500 cases (South Sumatra Women's Empowerment and Child Protection Service, 2021). Meanwhile, according to the Lahat Regency religious court, child marriages have increased, where in 2019 there were 25 cases, in 2020 it increased to 30 children and in 2021 there was an increase of 38 cases of child marriage (Jumra & Saron, 2021), based on data from the East Kikim District Office of Religious Affairs in 2021. In 2021, there were 252 official marriages recorded and for the Mulya clan village there were 90 couples who were officially married (East Kikim Religious Affairs Office, 2021).

The impact that occurs due to early marriage is that the reproductive organs are not ready to accept pregnancy so it can cause various complications¹⁵ karayu & Nurwati, 2021). Early marriage has a 2.6 greater risk of maternal death, 50% of infant deaths, 2-5 times pregnancy complications, 5 times miscarriage, 35-55% LBW and ¹⁸ difficult births. Apart from that, early marriage has a risk of dying during pregnancy or childbirth compared to the 20 to 24 year age group and this risk doubles when women are 15 to 19 years old (Puspasari & Pawitaningtyas, 2020).

¹³ The factors that cause early marriage are socio-cultural factors, economic pressure, level of education, level of knowledge, difficulty in getting a job, mass media, religion and views and beliefs (Juliawati, Novita, & Yolandia, 2021). There are several factors that cause early marriage, namely premarital pregnancy, family income, pornographic

media, knowledge, the culture of early marriage, and peer influence (Nurhikmah, Carolin, & Lubis, 2021).

Women who have a high level of education tend to marry at the ideal age, because the higher a woman's education, the more knowledge she can obtain, including knowledge about the impact of early marriage. In accordance with the results of research conducted in Depok Yogyakarta, with a correlation coefficient value of 0.534 indicating a correlation between relationships in the medium category, it can be said that the variable level of education does not have much influence on a woman's age at marriage (An⁴raini, Sari, & Damayanti, 2021).

Early marriage often occurs because of the family's low socioeconomic status. So it is considered to be one solution to escape economic difficulties, especially for women's families. The hope for families is not only to relieve the economic burden of one family member, but furthermore married daughters are expected to help the family economically (Zahro, Ruski, & Ulum, 2022).

Pre-survey results obtained in Marga Mulya Village in January 2022 showed that the number of cases of early marriage in 2021 was 39 cases. There were 4 cases of mothers with CED due to early marriage in the Mulya clan village, the incidence of toddlers with malnutrition was 10 cases. The Bumi Lampung Health Center technical implementation unit revealed that there were 2 cases of infant deaths resulting from early marriage in Marga Mulya Village (Lahat District Health Service, 2021).

Judging from the impact of early marriage, the biggest impact of early marriage is that it results in dropping out of school. When interviews were conducted with 10 people who got married early, it was found that 4 people did not know the impact of early marriage and 2 people said they got married early because they were pregnant before marriage. Of the 10 people who married early, it was found that most were people with low economic status.

RESEARCH METHOD

This research design is quantitative research. The research design uses a cross sectional approach, cross sectional correlation analytical studies are a technique used to analyze the relationship between independent and dependent variables (Lapau, 2013). This research design studies the relationship between early marriage in

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adolescent girls. The population in this study was all officially registered marriages in Marga Mulya Village, East Kikim District, Lahat Regency with a total of 90 couples and to determine the sample as a reference which will be discussed by the researcher using a sampling technique using the slovin technique. random sampling and obtained a sample of 74 respondents.

This research was carried out in June 2022 – April 2023 in Marga Mulya Village, East Kikim District, Lahat Regency. The independent variables or variables that can influence this research are education, economic status, knowledge, family support, local culture, exposure to mass media, family beliefs and premarital pregnancy. The dependent variable or variable that is influenced in this research is the incidence of early marriage.

The instrument in this research uses a questionnaire. Data collection was carried out by the researchers themselves and assisted by cadres and health workers from the community health center by distributing questionnaires to respondents. Early marriage category; yes, if married before the age of 18 years and no, if not married before the age of <18

years. Education; low, if the maximum education is junior high school and high, if the minimum education is high school. Economic status; low, if family income is \leq Rp.4,200,000/month and high, if family income is $>$ Rp.4,200,000/month. Knowledge is poor, if the correct score is $<50\%$ and good, if the correct score is $\geq 50\%$. Exposure to mass media is categorized as active, if teenagers always access mass media and inactive, if teenagers never or rarely access mass media. Family trust; yes, if you marry under the age of 18 because of family beliefs and no, if you don't marry a child under the age of 18. Family support; Yes, it was done deliberately and everything was prepared to marry children under 18 years old and no, if it doesn't support the marriage of children under 18 years old. Local culture; Yes, if you are sure, marry your child before the age of 18 because you are afraid of not selling well and are not sure, if you haven't married your child before the age of 18.

Data analysis uses univariate, bivariate and multivariate analysis. This research has been declared ethically sound by the Malahayati University Health Research Ethics Commission with number: 2855/EC/KEP-UNMAL/VIII/2022.

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RESEARCH RESULTS

Table 1. Characteristics of Respondent (N=74)

Variable	Results
Age (Mean±SD)(Range)(Years)	(16.64±7.021)(14-19)
Early Marriage (n/%)	
Yes	43/58.1
No	31/41.9
Education (n/%)	
Low	20/27
Height	54/73
Economic Status (n/%)	
Low	27/36.5
Height	47/63.5
Knowledge (n/%)	
Poor	45/60.8
Good	29/39.2
Premarital Pregnancy Status (n/%)	
No	62/83.8
Yes	12/16.2
Mass Media Exposure (n/%)	
Active	39/52.7
Not Active	35/47.3
Family Trust (n/%)	
No	39/52.7
Yes	35/47.3
Family Support (n/%)	
No	18/24.3
Yes	56/75.7
Local Culture (n/%)	
Not Sure	42/56.8
Confident	32/43.2

Univariate analysis which has been carried out on early marriages that occurred in Marga Mulya Village from 74 respondents with an average age of 16.64 and a standard deviation of 7.021, dominated by 73% who have higher education, 63.5% have an income of more than IDR 4,200,000, apart from that they 45 (60.8%) of the couples said they were not pregnant out of wedlock because of a lack of knowledge about the impacts, 83.8% of the couples said they were not pregnant out of wedlock, this could be due to influence from the mass media,

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52.7% and getting support and trust from the extended family. 75.7% or as many as 56 couples got married and this is also in line with 35 couples who said they got married at the age of less than 19 years. Apart from that, there is another basis where the culture in which the couple lives believes that 42 (56.8%) are not sure about their behavior.

Table 2. Test Results Bivariate Analysis of Early Marriage (Correlation Analysis) (N=74)

Variables	Early-Age Marriage		p-value	OR (CI 95%)
	Ya (n=43)	No (n=31)		
Education (n/%)				
Low	20/46.5	23/74.2	0,032	5.671 (0.12-9.482)
Height	23/53.5	8/25.8		
Economic Status (n/%)				
Low	19/44.2	22/71	0,040	5.229 (0,551- 43.228)
Height	24/55.8	9/29		
Knowledge (n/%)				
Poor	31/72.1	14/45.2	0,036	5.483 (1.028 – 10.387)
Good	12/27.9	17/54.8		
Premarital Pregnancy Status (n/%)				
No	26/60.5	16/51.6	0,345	1.363 (0.593 – 5.185)
Yes	15/39.5	15/48.4		
Mass Media Exposure (n/%)				
Active	23/53.5	18/58.1	0,878	0.156 (0.238 – 2.561)
Not active	20/46.5	13/41.9		
Family Trust (n/%)				
No	25/58.1	17/54.8	0,964	0.800 (0,460 – 4.223)
Yes	18/41.9	14/45.2		
Family Support (n/%)				
No	12/27.9	17/54.8	0,036	1.241 (1.144-0.134)
Yes	31/72.1	14/45.2		
Local Culture (n/%)				
Not sure	33/76.7	13/41.9	0,005	0.548 (1.524 – 15.728)
Confident	10/23.3	18/58.1		

The results of the statistical tests were obtained $p\text{-value} = 0.032$ which means $p < \alpha (0.05)$, to the conclusion that there is a relationship between education and early marriage among young women in Marga Mulya village in 2022. With an OR value of 5.6, it means that respondents with higher education have a 5.6 times greater chance of having knowledge of early marriage than those who have low education and respondents who have no education. With 95% confidence interval where an OR value of 5.6 was found lower 3,1 has a difference of 0.1 and value upper 9,4 has a difference of 3.8. From this difference in value, it is found that the difference in value is different between lower and upper, this means that early marriage factors will have positive and negative relationships or conditions can change.

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From statistical testing, the probability value for the economic status of having an income above or less than IDR is obtained. 4,200,000 with the application of probability (*p-value*) continuity correction Early marriage is 0.040 ($p < 5\%$ significance), which means there is a relationship between economic status and the implementation of marriage at an early age. With 95% confidence interval where is the OR value 5.229 found value lower 0.551 has a difference of 4.6 and value upper has a difference of 37.9. So it can be seen that the Odds Ratio (OR) value is > 1 , meaning that early marriage among young women has a positive relationship with economic status.

Statistical testing obtained probabilities (*p-value*) continuity correction (p -value $< 5\%$ significance) 0.036, meaning there is a significant influence between respondents' knowledge and the meaning of early marriage in Marga Mulya village, Lahat district for young women. From the results of the odds ratio of 4.583, it means that respondents who know the meaning of marriage less than $< 50\%$ have a 1.241 chance of getting married compared to young women who have knowledge $> 50\%$ and the strength of influence between variables is 27.2%. With 95% confidence interval where the OR value is 4.583, the value is found lower 1.028 has a difference > 1 and value upper 10.387 has a difference of > 1 . This can be interpreted as an Odds Ratio (OR) > 1 . The factor of early marriage in young women has a positive relationship with the knowledge factor of young women.

Statistical testing shows that the relationship between premarital pregnancy and early marriage does not have a positive relationship and there is no influence on the continuity correction *p-value* $>$ significance (0.345 $>$ 0.05). From the results of the analysis, an odds ratio value was obtained of 1.363, which means that young women with the status of not experiencing pregnancy outside of marriage are less likely to marry at the age of 14-19 years with a chance of 1.363 compared to young women who experience pregnancy outside of marriage. Apart from that, the analysis results related to the magnitude and strength of the influence between variables were 13.6%.

Meanwhile, the results of statistical tests show that the role of the mass media is not directly involved in making the decision to hold a marriage. This is proven by the absence of a significant influence where the value of continuity correction *p-value* 0.878 $>$ significance 0.05. From the results of the analysis obtained, an odds ratio value of 2.566 was obtained, meaning that young women who actively use mass

media tend not to marry under the age of 18 years. Apart from that, the level of influence between the variables is 0.04%.

The family's belief in early marriage does not have a significant influence on the value continuity correction *p-value* 0.964 $>$ 0.05 significant value). From the results of the analysis, it was found that the odds ratio value was 1.823, which means that young women who received trust from their families tended to marry over the age of 18 with 1.823 times the odds compared to young women who married under the age of 18 and the strength of the influence between the variables was 0.03%. With 95% confidence interval where an OR value of 0.80 was found lower 0.46 has a difference of 0.3 and value upper 4.23 has a difference of 3.4. From the difference in these values, the difference between the values is obtained lower upper has differences or there are 2 directions, namely positive and negative, so it can be interpreted that early marriage among young women has a two-way relationship with family trust.

From the results of statistical testing it was found that the family support variable had a significant influence on the continuity of marriage at an early age with value probabilitas continuity correction *p-value* 0.036 $<$ 0.05 significance. From the results of the analysis, an odds ratio value was obtained of 1.241, which means that young women who got married at the age of 14-19 years who received family support had a 1.241 chance of getting married compared to those who did not receive support from the family, besides that the magnitude of the strength of influence between variables was 0.27%. 1,241 (1,144-0,134).

The influence of local culture and early marriage on values probabilitas continuity correction *p value* 0.005 $<$ 0.05 level limit 5%. From the results of the analysis, an odds ratio value was obtained of 1.326, meaning that young women tend to get married or are already married. There is a 1.326 chance that families will not marry their children under < 18 years of age because they are afraid of not being successful, compared to young women whose families believe in the local culture. Apart from that, the level of influencing power between the variables is 0.35%.

Based on the results of the analysis that has been carried out, it is known that the variables that have a *p-value* $<$ 0.05 are (Education, Economic Status, Knowledge, Premarital Pregnancy, Family Support and Local Culture) while the variables that have a *p-value* $>$ 0.05 namely (Exposure to Mass Media and Family Trust), thus these variables can be candidate models in multivariate analysis with a value $<$ 0.05.

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Table 3. Results of Multivariate Analysis of Multiple Logistic Regression Tests between Independent Variables and Dependent Variables

Variable	Model 1	Model 2	Model 3	Model 4	Model 5	Model 6
Education (x1)	0.518	0.228	0.219	0.230	0.224	-
Economic Status (x2)	0.798	-	-	-	-	-
Knowledge (x3)	0.045	0.044	0.049	0.045	0.033	0.015
Premarital Pregnancy (x4)	0.310	0,304	0.320	0.306	-	-
Mass Media Exposure (x5)	0.683	0.639	-	-	-	-
Family Faith (x6)	0.558	0,547	0.596	-	-	-
Family Support (x7)	0.019	0.016	0.012	0.009	0,006	0.006
Local Culture (x8)	0.008	0.008	0.006	0.007	0.007	0.002

Selected Analysis Models

Variable	B	Forest	Pforest	OR 95% CI
Knowledge (x3)	1.333	5.908	0.015	1.241 (1.028 – 10.387)
Family Support (x7)	1.218	5.483	0.006	1.241 (1.144-0.134)
Local Culture (x8)	1.647	9.228	0.002	1.326 (1.524 – 15.728)
Constant	4.198	20.619	0.000	-

Based on the results of the analysis, it can be seen that there are 4 variables that have a probability value (p-value) < 0.05 including knowledge about early marriage (0.015), family support (0.006) and local culture (0.002). These results indicate that these variables have a significant relationship with early marriage at the age of 14-19 years among young women in the village of Marga Mulya East Kikim, Lahat Regency, South Sumatra Province. From the equation above, it can be seen that the regression coefficient value for each variable is positive. This means that there is a direct relationship between knowledge, family support and local culture towards early marriage among young women in the village of Marga Mulya East Kikim, Lahat Regency, South Sumatra Province. Relationship which is in the same direction between each of these variables illustrates that every one unit increase in the variables of knowledge, family support and local culture causes an increase in the rate of early marriage of 1.333 times due to knowledge, 1.218 times due to family support and 1.647 times due to the culture that exists in the area. area around where you live. Meanwhile, the positive value for Constanta was 4.198, illustrating that without any intervention, knowledge, family support and local culture also increased by 4.198 times.

DISCUSSION

In the final modeling, it was found that the variables of knowledge, family support and local culture had a significant value of <0.05, which means that these variables had a significant relationship with the occurrence of early marriage among young women in the village of Marga Mulya East Kikim, Lahat Regency, South Sumatra Province. The model formed was declared feasible because it met the significance of the model as seen from the omnibus test value (p=0.000). Based on the Nagerkerke R square, the value obtained = 302, meaning that the independent variables contained in the model can explain early marriage by 30.2%.

In the Marriage Law Article 7 paragraph (1) Marriage Law No.1/1974 as a positive law that applies in Indonesia, stipulates that marriage is only permitted if the man has reached the age of 19 (nineteen) years and the woman has reached age 16 (sixteen). There are various factors that influence early marriage, such as economic factors, support from family, culture and customs, where the customs believed by certain communities increase the percentage of early marriages. For example, the belief is that it is not permissible to refuse someone's proposal to their daughter even though they are still

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17 under 18 (eighteen) years of age, because this will be considered insulting to the party proposing so that this causes parents to marry off their daughter (Isnaini & Sari, 2019). Apart from that, in certain families, it can be seen that there are those who have a tradition or habit of marrying their children at a young age, and this continues continuously, so that the children in these families will automatically follow this tradition (Harniyanti, Faiqah, Sulanty, & Restrain, 2018). So habits and customs in the local environment influence the habit of residents to marry at an early age. The reason they marry at an early age is so that they are not said to be old maids, and people who are proposed to are prohibited from refusing because it could make it difficult to find a mate.

This is in line with the opinion of Max Weber, (1964) from social theory where human individuals in society are creative actors and static reality rather than the coercion of social facts. This means that human actions are not completely determined by the norms, habits, values and so on included in the concept of social facts. Although in the end Weber acknowledged that in society there are social structures and social institutions. It is said that social structure and social institutions are concepts that are interrelated in shaping social action (Wirawan, 2012; Weber, 2009).

In line with previous research which states that socio-economic status is significantly related to early marriage in women aged 19 - 24 years in rural Indonesia. Apart from that, the level of knowledge of young women can also influence the incidence of early marriage. The level of knowledge can be influenced by several factors, namely education, experience and age (Laksono & Wulandari, 2021). The higher a person's level of education, the higher their level of knowledge so that they can prevent early marriage. In line with research conducted in Janjimauli Muarataisi Village which stated that there was a significant relationship between knowledge and early marriage (Nasution, 2021).

Another factor that influences the incidence of early marriage is premarital pregnancy. In line with research conducted in Pulau Laut Islands District, Kotabaru Regency which stated that there was a significant relationship between premarital pregnancy of respondents and early marriage. The OR value = 14.295, so women who are pregnant

before marriage are 14.295 times more likely to have an early marriage compared to women who are not pregnant before marriage (Nurhikmah et al., 2021). Exposure to mass media is one of the factors causing behavior that can provoke a person's curiosity about watching adult content, in almost all countries. With the trigger factor of media exposure which is very easy to access at any time. In line with research in marinda which states that there is a relationship between the use of mass media and the level of risk of early marriage with a p-value (0.018) (Saputra & Amalia, 2021).

Early marriages are formed as a result of social factors where there is a classification of an action, including four types of action which are distinguished by the context and motives of the perpetrators, namely: first, traditional action, namely action determined by customs that have been ingrained for generations. Second, Affective Action, is an action determined by the actor's emotional condition and orientation. Third, Rational Instrumental, are actions aimed at achieving goals that are rationally calculated and pursued by the actor concerned. Fourth, rational values, namely actions based on values carried out for reasons and goals that are related to values. which the actor personally believes without taking into account the prospects related to the success or failure of the action (Weber, 2009).

Research on early marriage in the United States shows that 25% of women and 16% of men marry before the age of 23, and early marriage varies widely across a number of characteristics. Individuals who married early were more likely to be from disadvantaged families, from conservative Protestant or Mormon families, to value their religious beliefs more highly, to have a high school diploma but a lower educational trajectory, and to live together before marriage (Uecker, & Stokes, 2008). In Kenya and Zambia it was found that early marriage increases coital frequency, reduces condom use, and almost eliminates girls' ability to have casual sex (Clark, 2004). Research in Ahvaz Iran stated that although participants were not ready to marry and intended to postpone their marriage, several factors such as individual factors and contextual factors encouraged them to marry early (Montazeri, Gharacheh, Mohammadi, Rad, & Ardabili, 2016).

The highest exp (B) value is the local culture variable, which is 5.336, which means that the local

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culture variable is the dominant variable that influences early marriage among young women. Apart from that, respondents who still follow local culture are at risk of having an early marriage of 5.336 or 5.5% of the total available. This is in line with previous research where culture and customs in an area still enforce their belief in marrying off their children at an early age with several factors or obstacles they face such as economics, in the results shown the Exp (B) value is 7.420 which means cultural factors locality is the variable that has the most dominant influence on early marriage (Bawono, Setyaningsih, Hanim, Masrifah, & Astuti, 2022).

CONCLUSION

Early marriage in this study showed that from the results of 74 couples who filled out the relationship questionnaire core relation (bivariate analysis) The variables are related to each other at a very strong level, but after determining the level of influence (multivariate analysis) only the variables of knowledge, family support and local culture have a significant relationship to early marriage with values *probability* < 0.05. Apart from that, local culture has the most dominant influence with a magnitude of 5,336 compared to 7 other variables and there is a significant relationship between the variables of knowledge, family support and local culture in the formation of the early marriage process in young women.

SUGGESTION

The function and role of the family must be further improved and paid attention to because it can make a positive contribution in reducing the number of young marriages and the negative impacts of young marriage itself, through child protection parenting patterns and it is hoped that teenagers can avoid social patterns that can damage themselves. Apart from that, to reduce early marriage, the quality of education should be further improved, so that marriage at an early age that occurs in society does not increase. As parents, we need to continuously provide assistance to our children so that they can grow and develop according to their age.

For government agencies, it would be possible to create programs that can help reduce the number of early marriages, as well as other programs that can

deter teenagers from committing adultery. Apart from that, government agencies and the public care more about the surrounding environment and strictly enforce the law.

It is to the next author that socialization be carried out to the community about early marriage and the impacts of early marriage as well as conducting outreach about the Marriage Law.

RESEARCH LIMITATIONS

The scope used in the research only covers one area at the village level and does not cover a very wide area that extends to the district/city level, so that the research results cannot be generalized to a wider population. In this research, the data produced is only from a questionnaire instrument which is based on the perception of the respondent's answers, so that the conclusions drawn are only based on data collected through the use of a written questionnaire instrument without being supplemented by interviews or interviewing. In collecting questionnaire data, sometimes respondents who are young women aged 14-19 years still feel shy about being interviewed and their families sometimes do not accept the arrival of researchers to collect data.

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