

## The Influence of Knowledge and Economic Status on Early Marriage in Keliling Danau District, Kerinci Regency in 2022

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**Abstract.** According to WHO, early marriage is a marriage between a couple or one of the partners is still categorized as a child or teenager under the age of 19 years. Jambi Province ranks ninth in the rate of marriage at a young age in Indonesia, amounting to 14.8% in 2019, where the percentage for Kerinci Regency is 21%. Among the factors that influence early marriage are low knowledge and economic status. This research aims to determine the influence of knowledge and economic status on early marriage in Keliling Danau district, Kerinci regency. The method used in this research was an analytical survey with a cross-sectional approach where 92 women from couples of childbearing age were the research sample. The sampling technique was simple random sampling and the data was analyzed using chi-square test analysis. Early marriage among respondents was 48.9%, the majority of respondents had good knowledge (65.2%) and high economic status (81.5%). The results of statistical tests show that there is an influence between the knowledge variable ( $p\text{-value}=0.003$ ) and economic status ( $p\text{-value}=0.025$ ) on early marriage. Therefore, it is hoped that regional governments can coordinate across the health sector to increase outreach regarding the prevention of early marriage and the negative impacts it causes.

**Keywords:** Early Marriage; Female Couples of Childbearing Age

### INTRODUCTION

Early marriage is a formal or informal marriage performed under the age of 19 (UNICEF, 2019). While Al Ghafari 20018, thinks that a young marriage is a marriage carried out in adolescence. In this case, teenagers are between the ages of 10-19 and unmarried. Early marriage is now increasingly common among society because many parents are marrying off their daughters who, according to the law, have not yet reached the marriageable age (Nasihah, 2016)

Based on 2018 data, a total of 1,184,100 women who married at the age of 18 were found in all regions of Indonesia, with the largest number occurring on the island of Java with 668,900 women (Databoks (Unicef), July 2019).<sup>12</sup> According to the Central Statistics Agency (BPS), South Kalimantan is the province with the highest percentage in Indonesia in 2019, namely 21.2%. On the other hand, in Jambi Province the rate of young marriage is 14.8%, which ranks 9<sup>th</sup>.

It is important to see that the results of pregnancy under 19 years will increase medical complications for the mother and child. Pregnancy at such an early age is correlated with maternal mortality and morbidity. So girls aged 10-14 years are five times more likely to die during pregnancy or childbirth than those aged 20-24 years, these consequences are twice as high as those aged 15-19 years. The physical part of the child is not yet ready for the labor or delivery process, as a result there are problems with obstructed delivery and obstetric fistula.

Research conducted by Sari, 2020 shows that the impact of early marriage is not being able to continue school to a higher level during pregnancy and childbirth, the

incidence of low birth weight babies, hypertension or anemia, because the reproductive function is not ready for pregnancy or childbirth at this age. who is still young. Biologically, the risks that can arise from pregnancy under the age of 19 are premature birth, bleeding, miscarriage, molar pregnancy and death. Meanwhile, the weight of babies born is at risk of experiencing LBW (low birth weight babies), the risk of having an abnormal birth is 5-30 times more children dying (Handayani, 2022).

Apart from that, based on Arimurti's research, in 2020, little knowledge will make teenagers less aware of the risks or dangers that come with marrying young, which will encourage early marriage without understanding the long-term causes and consequences that need to be known. Another factor that influences early marriage is economic status. Early marriage is considered to be a solution to overcome poverty for families with daughters. Marrying off one of the daughters you have is the most practical way out to reduce the pressure on the family's economic burden (Singh & Vennam, 2016).

## RESEARCH METHODS

The research design used an analytical survey with a cross sectional approach. The sample in this study was all 92 female couples of childbearing age (PUS) 15-49 years in Keliling Danau district, Kerinci regency, using simple random sampling techniques. The instruments used were questionnaires and test analysis using chi-square.

## RESEARCH RESULT

The results of research on the frequency distribution of respondent characteristics are presented in the following tables :

**Tabel 1. Frequency Distribution of Respondent Characteristics**

<b>Variable</b>	<b>f</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Age (years old)</b>		
18-20	13	14,1
21-40	79	85,9
<b>Education</b>		
Low	36	39,1
High	56	60,9
<b>Marriage Age</b>		
≥ 19	47	51,5
< 19	45	48,9
<b>Knowledge</b>		
Less	32	34,8
Good	60	65,2
<b>Economic Status</b>		
Low	17	18,5
High	75	81,5

*Source: Processed Primary Data, 2022*

Based on the data in table 1, it is known that the majority of respondents aged 21-40 years were 79 respondents (85.9%) with the higher education category being 56 respondents (60.9%). Most respondents married at the age of 19 years and over with a total of 47 respondents (51.1%) with good knowledge of 60 people (65.2%) and high economic status of 75 people (81.5%).

**Tabel 1. Frequency Distribution of Respondents Based on Univariate Analysis**

Variable	Early Marriage				p-Value	PR	95% CI
	No		Yes				
	N	%	N	%			
<b>Knowledge</b>							
Good	38	63,3%	22	36,7%	0,003	2,252	1,253-4,048
Less	9	28,1%	23	71,9%			
<b>Economic Status</b>							
Low	43	57,3%	32	42,7%	0,025	2,437	1,012-5,868
High	4	23,5%	13	76,5%			

Source: Processed Primary Data, 2022

Table 2 shows that 23 respondents with less knowledge entered into early marriage (71.9%). Meanwhile, there were 22 respondents (36.7%) who had a good level of knowledge who entered into early marriage, where the value *p-value* of 0.003 and a prevalence ratio (PR) value of 2.252 (95%CI=(2.253-4.048)).

Respondents with low family economic status who had early marriage were 13 respondents (76.5%) and respondents with high family economic status who had early marriage were 32 respondents (42.7%) where the value *p-value* of 0.025 and a prevalence ratio (PR) value of 2.437 (95%CI=(1.012-5.868)).

## DISCUSSION

Based on the results of this research, as many as 23 respondents with insufficient knowledge married at an early age (71.9%). Knowledge is the result of observing something that is permanent and is one of the factors that encourages early marriage. Lack of information about early marriage is the possibility of early marriage either from the teenager's own decision to get the support of his parents or his parents' request for their child to get married quickly.

In this research, it is known that knowledge influences early marriage (*p-value*=0.003) with a PR value of 2.252 (95%CI=(2.253-4.048)) meaning that respondents who have poor knowledge are 2.252 times more likely to marry at an early age than those who have good knowledge.

Research conducted by Mambaya & Stang (2021) stated that there was a relationship between knowledge and early marriage among couples of childbearing age in Pangli Village, Sesean District. A woman who has good knowledge about reproduction

will definitely consider her marriage age more because they know the impact on her reproductive health.

This research is also in line with that carried out by Julianti (2019) where the results of the statistical test of the knowledge variable are known to have a significant relationship with the incidence of early marriage in young women with  $p\text{-value} = 0.022$  and obtained an OR value = 2.997 (1.251- 7.181). So it can be concluded that teenagers who have poor knowledge have a risk factor 2.997 times greater for early marriage compared to teenagers who have good knowledge (Julianti, 2019).

Early marriage often occurs because of the low socioeconomic status of the family, 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 be able to help the family economically (Wulandari, 2020).

Family economic status is proven to have a significant influence on motives for early marriage and shows that every increase in family economic status will reduce the average motive for early marriage. Low economic conditions make early marriage perpetrators decide to marry. No school fees are the reason for them to drop out of school (Khaerani, 2019).

A person's weak or poor economic condition will lead to early marriage. Parents will immediately marry their children, with the reason that after marriage it will be easier for parents to support their family. Here children have a very big role, where married children will be able to help their parents with their burdens.

From the results of the research that has been carried out, it was found that 13 respondents (76.5%) had low economic status families who entered into early marriage. Meanwhile, 32 respondents (42.7%) had a high family economic status who had early marriage with a  $p\text{-value}$  of 0.025, so it can be said that there is a relationship between family economic status and early marriage among female couples of childbearing age (PUS). ) in Keliling Danau District, Kerinci Regency in 2022. Based on findings conducted by researchers, the dominant economy of respondents in the poor category is less than < IDR 2,400,000.

The results of the analysis also show that the prevalence ratio (PR) value is 2.437 (95% CI=(1.012-2.868). This means that respondents who have a low family economic status are 2.437 times more likely to have early marriage compared to respondents who have a high family economic status. So it is increasingly The lower the family economy, the higher the possibility of early marriage, because for some parents, by marrying off their daughters, the burden on the family is also reduced because it has become the husband's responsibility.

The results of this research are supported by Wulandari, et al (2020) who state that early marriage is dominated by respondents with the lowest socioeconomic status, (41.3%) and the proportion decreases as the respondent's socioeconomic status increases. Next, a multiple logistic regression test was carried out to determine the relationship

between independent variables and early marriage status in women aged 19 - 24 years in rural Indonesia. The predictors involved in this analysis are the socioeconomic status variable. The results of the analysis can be concluded that the socioeconomic status and education level of women aged 19 - 24 years in rural Indonesia are related to the occurrence of early marriage. The better the socioeconomic level, the less likely it is to experience early marriage in rural areas (Wulandari, 2020).

Poor families are always faced with difficult choices when their economic conditions are very minimal. Various studies on the impact of poverty on various basic population problems such as education, health, employment and housing have been explained by many experts. The poverty level in Madopolo Village is relatively high, namely 20.00 percent, far from the average poverty level in Madopolo Village province (15.19%) and nationally (11.13%) and the poverty of the villagers in Madopolo Village, apart from having an impact on fulfilling basic needs, also has an impact on the high rate of early marriage. This means that the better the socioeconomic level, the smaller the possibility of experiencing early marriage in rural areas.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

The results of this study show that overall there are still respondents who marry at an early age (48.9%) in the Surrounding Lake sub-district, Kerinci Regency in 2022. Knowledge and economic status variables influence early marriage. Therefore, there is a need for coordination between regional governments and across the health sector to make efforts to increase education and outreach regarding early marriage and the negative impacts it causes.

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