

CHARACTERISTICS OF CHILD MARRIAGE IN INDONESIAN FAMILIES

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Abstract. Child marriage is common in various parts of the world, around one in five girls are married as children. Indonesia is ranked 8th in the world and 2nd in ASEAN. This study uses a quantitative descriptive method using secondary data from PK 2021. Further analysis was conducted using the Chi-Square test to determine the relationship between the dependent variable (child marriage) and the independent variables (age, education, marital status, employment status, insurance ownership and birth certificate). The number of Indonesian families is 64,221,677 and families who marry at the age of ≤ 18 years are 29.1% (18,715,673 families). As many as 29% of women/men are married/living together at the age of ≤ 18 years and 24% are divorced/separated/divorced. As many as 7.5% of women/men who are married at the age of ≤ 18 are currently aged 20-24. In terms of education, families who have child marriages are 71.7% low educated. While the education of female partners who are highly educated is only 9%. The results of further tests on all variables found that there is a positive relationship between age, education, marital status, employment status, insurance ownership and birth certificates with the incidence of child marriage.

Keywords: Child Marriage, Indonesian Families.

INTRODUCTION

Despite a steady decline over the past decade, child marriage is prevalent throughout the world, with around one in five girls being married as children. The food crisis, conflicts, climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic are threatening efforts to address this issue. The UN is calling on the world to end child marriage by 2030. Nearly half of child brides live in South Asia (45 percent) with the next largest number in Sub-Saharan Africa (20 percent), followed by East Asia and the Pacific (15 percent) and Latin America and the Caribbean (9 percent) (UNICEF, 2023). Child marriage in Indonesia is ranked 8th in the world. In fact, it is ranked 2nd in ASEAN (Maskur et al., 2024) (Nisa et al., 2022) (Delyka et al., 2023).

According to data from UNICEF (2005), Indonesia is one of the countries in ASEAN with a high rate of early marriage. Indonesia is ranked fifth after Laos (40%), Thailand (23%), Cambodia (21%), and the Philippines (19%). Regulations regarding marriage have been regulated in the Marriage Law No. 1 of 1974 which has been revised to the Marriage Law No. 16 of 2019 in article 7 it is stated that marriage is only permitted if the man and woman reach the age of 19 (nineteen) years, but child marriage is still high (UNICEF & BPS, 2020).

In fact, in the 2020-2024 National Medium-Term Development Plan (RPJMN), the Indonesian Government targets the child marriage rate to decrease to 8.74 percent in 2024 (Bappenas, 2020). On the other hand, there are policies that are not in sync regarding the prohibition of underage marriage (19 years) with the marriage dispensation issued by the government (Muqaffi et al., 2022).

RESEARCH METHOD

Family Data Collection is an activity to collect primary data on Population data, Family Planning data, Family Development data and Family Member (Individual) data carried out by the community together with the government (BKKBN) simultaneously at a predetermined time, every 5 (five) years through house-to-house visits to families. The 2021 Family Data Collection will be carried out

for 2 (two) months, namely April 1 - May 31, 2021, with the data collection method being census. Furthermore, every year (2022-2024) the results of the 2021 Family Data Collection will be updated using a survey method, with a sampling method to be determined later (BKKBN, 2020).

The 2021 Family Data Collection data collection tool is carried out using a form (paper based) and a smartphone. The 2021 Family Data Collection using a smartphone means that the Data Collection Cadre collects and records data by inputting it into the application using a smartphone. The 2021 Family Data Collection uses a form (paper based) meaning that the Data Collection Cadre collects data using paper form F/I/PK/21. The logical consequence of implementing paper based results in a longer data collection process compared to smartphones. The verification process for filling out the F/I/PK/21 form is a stage that will be carried out manually, then data input is carried out so that it has an impact on the data processing process that will be carried out (BKKBN, 2020).

This study is a quantitative descriptive study, where researchers want to know the picture of child marriage events related to the variables of age, education, marital status, employment status, insurance ownership and birth certificates. Further analysis was carried out using the Chi-Square test to determine the relationship between the dependent variable (child marriage) and the independent variables (age, education, marital status, employment status, insurance ownership and birth certificates).

The descriptive research design was chosen because the researcher tried to capture the events and incidents that were the center of his attention, then describe or depict them as they are, so that it does not require treatment or manipulation of variables, because the symptoms and events already exist and the researcher only needs to describe them. The quantitative approach is meant as a type of approach whose findings are obtained through statistical procedures or other calculations.

RESULT AND ANALYSIS

In Indonesia, the results of the 2021 family census show that the number of Indonesian families is 64,221,677. As for families who marry at the age of children ≤ 18 years, there are 29.1% (18,715,673 families) or 3 out of 10 Indonesian families, the age of the first marriage occurs at less than or equal to the age of 18 years.

Table 1. Characteristics of Child Marriage

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Characteristics	Child Marriage (<= 18 Year)				Total		P-Values
	No		Yes		Count	Col %	
	Count	Col %	Count	Col %			
Employment status							0,00
Working	21.975.721	48,3	8.341.443	44,6	30.317.164	47,2	
Not Working	23.520.283	51,7	10.374.230	55,4	33.894.513	52,8	
Education Level							0,00
Low	17.047.672	37,5	13.423.608	71,7	30.471.280	47,5	
Middle	8.709.116	19,1	3.604.243	19,3	12.313.359	19,2	
High	19.739.216	43,4	1.687.822	9,0	21.427.038	33,4	
KKBPK Information							0,00
Yes	35.405.949	77,8	13.411.628	71,7	48.817.577	76,0	
No	10.090.055	22,2	5.304.045	28,3	15.394.100	24,0	
Insurance Ownership							0,00
Do not have	31.852.675	70,0	11.653.680	62,3	43.506.355	67,8	
Have	13.643.329	30,0	7.061.993	37,7	20.705.322	32,2	

Ownership of birth certificate							0,00
Yes	24.331.320	53,5	5.364.339	28,7	29.695.659	46,2	
No	21.164.684	46,5	13.351.334	71,3	34.516.018	53,8	
Number of children							0,00
0	2.362.485	4,8	473.621	3,2	2.836.106	4,4	
1-2	19.739.418	39,9	6.157.782	41,8	25.897.200	40,3	
>=3	7.659.082	15,5	3.235.709	22,0	10.894.791	17,0	
<i>Missing (non PUS)</i>	19.734.224	39,9	4.849.356	33,0	24.583.580	38,3	
Marital Status							0,00
Marry	38.953.688	85,6	14.226.187	76,0	53.179.875	82,8	
Divorce	1.826.919	4,0	827.684	4,4	2.654.603	4,1	
Divorce Dies	4.715.397	10,4	3.661.802	19,6	8.377.199	13,0	
Age group							0,00
<=14	16	0,0	6.634	0,0	6.650	0,0	
15-19	55.582	0,1	327.396	1,7	382.978	0,6	
20-24	2.040.247	4,5	1.092.563	5,8	3.132.810	4,9	
25-29	4.871.180	10,7	1.453.544	7,8	6.324.724	9,8	
30-34	6.014.677	13,2	1.550.132	8,3	7.564.809	11,8	
35-39	6.621.469	14,6	1.891.502	10,1	8.512.971	13,3	
40-44	6.286.643	13,8	1.933.118	10,3	8.219.761	12,8	
45-49	5.614.450	12,3	1.899.094	10,1	7.513.544	11,7	
>=50	13.991.740	30,8	8.561.690	45,7	22.553.430	35,1	
Total	45.496.004	100	18.715.673	100	64.211.677	100	

Note : Sig *0.1; 0.05;0.01

1.1 Working status

Families who have child marriages are more likely to have unemployed women with a proportion of 55.4% compared to working women at 44.6%.

1.2 Education

From the aspect of education, Indonesian families who have child marriages with low education are 71.7% and the least is in couples with highly educated women, namely 9%. Generally, someone who drops out of school has a greater chance of having a child marriage. This situation can be influenced by economic pressures, the environment, relationships and local socio-cultural factors.

1.3 KKBPK Information

Population, Family Planning and Family Development Information (KKBPK) is closely related to the main program of BKKBN. The KKBPK information provided is the result of communication, information, and education activities carried out by BKKBN. Information that describes population such as those related to fertility/birth, mortality/death, morbidity/illness, migration, urbanization, transmigration, unemployment, employment, environmental damage, poverty, energy crisis, moral crisis, and demographic bonus. Furthermore, information related to family planning and reproductive health and family development includes information on community activity groups such as Toddler Family Development (BKB), Youth Family Development (BKR), Elderly Family Development (BKL), Youth Information and Counseling Center (PIK-R), Family Empowerment Efforts for Prosperous Families (UPPKS). From some of this information, if owned by families, it will affect intelligence to behave. Explained in the theory of Plan Behavior, Ajzen (2005), if someone has values, intelligence, emotions will affect beliefs and attitudes to determine their behavior, both positive and negative. Likewise, it is related to child marriage. Access to information

received can convince to take action to postpone marriage until adulthood, namely for women 21 years and men 25 years. (BKKBN, ...)

From Table 1, it is known that 71.7% of families who marry at a young age admit that they have received access to information on the Family Development, Population and Family Planning Program (KKBPK). This situation certainly needs attention from the government (in this case BKKBN) especially related to the IEC provided with the content and quality of messages that need to be improved so that the KKBPK program in terms of maturing the age of marriage can be better accepted by the community.

1.3 Insurance Ownership

Of all married women/men aged ≤ 18 years old recorded, most do not have insurance such as BPJS or other private health insurance with a proportion of 67% and the remaining 32.2% already have insurance. Generally, women/men who marry at a young age ≤ 18 years old do not have insurance, 62.3% compared to those who have insurance, 37.7%. This condition is homework for the government related to the concept of universal coverage which should be realized for all levels of society.

1.4 Birth Certificate Ownership

Based on the 2020-2024 National Medium-Term Planning Draft (RPJMN) regarding the fulfillment of children's civil rights to birth certificate ownership, the target for birth certificate ownership is 100 percent. In the 2021 family data collection, it was found that more than half of the respondents interviewed had children who did not have birth certificates, namely 53.8%. (34,516,018). Meanwhile, data from all female respondents who had child marriages (18,715,673), recorded that 71.3% did not have birth certificates. This figure is still quite large and requires greater efforts to achieve the target of 100% in 2024.

Children who do not have birth certificates are at risk of being unprotected, having difficulty accessing public services and being vulnerable to cases of child trafficking and underage marriage. The state is obliged to protect, guarantee the rights and provide recognition of the personal status and legal status of children, one of which is a birth certificate.

1.5 Child marriage based on current marital status

Based on marital status, the majority are married (82.8%), divorced (4.4%), and 13% are divorced. This figure may seem small, but when viewed on a national scale, it is still quite high. The level of stability in terms of economy, physical and personality greatly determines the resilience of a family. Child marriage not only has an impact on the physical development, reproductive health and psychosocial of children, but also increases the risk of psychological problems such as depression and suicide. The immaturity of mental maturity of underage women makes them more vulnerable in facing various emotional challenges in marriage.

CONCLUSION

There are twenty-nine percent of women/men who are married/living together at the age of ≤ 18 years and 24 percent who are divorced/separated/divorced. Seven and a half percent of women/men who are married at the age of ≤ 18 are currently aged 20-24. Meanwhile, in terms of education, families who have child marriages are mostly (71.7%) low-educated. The education of female partners who are highly educated is only 9%.

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