

The relationship of parental characteristics with adolescents' knowledge and attitudes regarding early marriage

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ARTICLE INFO

Article history:

Received Jul 23, 2024

Revised Jul 25, 2024

Accepted Jul 29, 2024

Keywords:

Adolescence
Characteristics of Parents
Early Marriage

ABSTRACT

East Java is the province with the highest rate of child marriage, which is 10.44% higher than the national average. Early marriages carried out by minors are also inseparable from the role of parents. In this study, the characteristics of parents that will be studied are education, employment status, income and history of early marriage. To determine the relationship between parental characteristics and teenagers' attitudes and knowledge about early marriage. This research uses an analytical survey method with a cross-sectional study approach. This research was attended by 80 students and pupils who met the inclusion criteria. Data collection was carried out using a questionnaire. Bivariate analysis used the Chi-square test with a significance value of 5%. There is no relationship between parental characteristics and student knowledge. Apart from that, there is no relationship between employment status and parental income and student attitudes. However, there is a significant relationship between recent education (p value 0.048) and parents' history of early marriage (p value 0.006) with students' attitudes. Recent education and history of early marriage of parents have a significant relationship with students' attitudes at State Islamic Boarding School Al-Maarif 03 Singosari, Malang.

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INTRODUCTION

Marriage according to the Big Indonesian Dictionary (KBBI) is a marriage bond or contract carried out according to legal and religious provisions (Moeliono, 1986). According to the World Health Organization (WHO), early marriage is defined as marriage between teenagers under 19 years of age (Prahara, 2023). UNICEF notes that around 60% of girls in the world marry under the age of 18 (Yusari, 2021). From these figures, Indonesia is in eighth place in the world and second in ASEAN with the most cases of early marriage with 1,459,000 cases (Kusumajaya et al., 2023). Nationally, the percentage of early marriage in Indonesia reaches 11.2%, where this figure represents women who marry under 18 years of age (Melati, 2021) (Susilowati et al., 2023) (Kinanti & Fahadayna, 2024). East

Java is the province with the highest rate of underage child marriage, which is 10.44% higher than the national average (Dini & Nurhelita, 2020) (Qibtiyah, 2015) (Tisen, 2019).

Malang Regency is in first place for the number of early marriages in East Java with 1,455 applications for dispensation. This figure exceeds cases in Ponorogo which only reached 176 dispensations. Of the high number of cases of early marriage in Malang Regency, Singosari District dominates cases of early marriage. As many as 100 children under 19 years old applied for marriage dispensation in 2022. This case was followed by Poncokusumo District with 94 cases and Dampit District with 93 children (Amanaty & Syarafuddin, 2023).

There are several factors that influence early marriage, including the difficulty of living in a vulnerable family and not having good parenting capacity, children not getting positive support from the family, not having the ability to weigh the risks of pregnancy, considering marriage as a way to enjoy youth. The impacts of early marriage are varied, namely, (1) physical health impacts, (2) psychological impacts, (3) impacts on children's development and growth, (4) impacts on the attitudes of the surrounding community. Adolescents who engage in early marriage and pregnancy programs are at risk of increasing the maternal mortality rate (MMR), infant mortality rate (IMR), and giving birth prematurely. This is because the adolescent's uterus is not yet fully ready for pregnancy. Other health impacts such as low birth weight (LBW) can also be experienced by babies whose mothers are still teenagers (Sarwadhamana et al., 2023).

Another factor that causes early marriage in teenagers is the knowledge aspect. Teenagers' attitudes will be better if they have high knowledge of the risks of early marriage. Early marriage carried out by children cannot be separated from the role of parents. The results found that there was an influence between maternal education and the incidence of early marriage. Other characteristics related to the incidence of early marriage are employment status and economic level. Parents who have jobs are less likely to marry off their children at an early age, compared to parents who don't work (Supriandi et al., 2022).

Seeing the large number of cases of early marriage and the impacts they can have, it is on this basis that the author wants to research early marriage in Singosari District, Malang Regency. Researchers want to know the factors of parental characteristics and teenagers' knowledge and attitudes regarding early marriage.

RESEARCH METHOD

The method used in this research is an analytical survey. This research tries to find the relationship between risk factors and effect factors. In this study, the risk factors taken were parental characteristics, while the effect factors were teenagers' attitudes and knowledge about early marriage. The design used in this research is a Cross Sectional Study. The population in this study was all students at State Islamic Boarding School Al-Maarif 03 Singosari, Malang, totaling 78 students. The method used for sampling is purposive sampling, where the samples will be sorted according to the inclusion and exclusion criteria that have been created. The research will be carried out in the period September - October 2023.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Table 1. Distribution of parental characteristics

	Characteristics	Frequency (n)	Percent (%)
Last education	High (high school/equivalent and diploma)	42	51.21
	Medium (junior high school/equivalent)	24	29.26
	Low (SD/equivalent)	16	19.51
Job status	Work	56	68.29

	Characteristics	Frequency(n)	Percent(%)
Income	Doesn't work	26	31.70
	<UMK District. Poor	79	96.34
	>UMK District. Poor	3	3.65
History of Early Marriage	There is no history of early marriage	61	74.39
	There is a history of early marriage	21	25.60
Total		82	100

The research results showed that the distribution of characteristics of teenage parents based on the parent's last education category, of the 82 students' parents, the majority had a high school education, namely 42 parents (51.21%). Followed by 24 parents (29.26%) with junior high school education, and 16 parents (19.51%) with primary school education. From the distribution of data on people's employment status, the majority of parents have employment status, namely 56 parents (68.29%). Only a small number of parents do not have employment status, namely 26 parents (31.70%).

From the distribution of parents' income data, the majority of parents have incomes below the Malang Regency UMK, namely 79 parents (96.34%) and a small percentage have incomes above the Malang Regency UMK, namely 3 parents (3.56%). From the distribution of parents' history of early marriage, 21 parents had a history of early marriage (25.60%) and 61 parents had no history of early marriage (74.39%).

Table 1. Distribution of student knowledge

Teenagers' Knowledge Level	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
- Tall	2984	70.73
- Currently		19.51
- Low		9.75
Total	41	100

On the research results The results showed that the majority of respondents had high knowledge, 29 out of 41 (70.73%). Knowledge is a fact, information, or truth obtained through learning or experience. Information that a person is aware of and is useful for their life is also the definition of knowledge. Humans can think about their lives and these thoughts become a source of knowledge (Darsini et al., 2019). The high level of respondents' knowledge of research results is caused by several factors. Several factors that can influence a person include age, education, economics, social culture, environment, and mass media (Maryani & Anggraeni, 2022).

Table 2. Distribution of student attitudes

Adolescent Attitudes	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
- Positive	24	58.53
- Negative	17	41.46
Total	41	100

The results of this research show that the majority of students at at State Islamic Boarding School Al-Maarif 03 Singosari, Malang have a positive attitude regarding early marriage, namely 23 people (56.09%). Attitude is defined as a term that describes the relationship between perception and behavior. Attitude as a personality is used to determine behavior and actions towards an object and is accompanied by feelings. Attitudes have characteristics, including direction, intensity, flexibility, consistency and spontaneity (Saifuddin Azwar, 2010).

In this study, the attitude characteristics assessed were based on direction, positive or negative. In this research, the majority of State Islamic Boarding School Al-Maarif 03 Singosari, Malang students supported unfavorable statements regarding early marriage. A negative attitude

is an attitude that describes a bad or detrimental assessment or evaluation of an object, idea, or situation. When someone has a negative attitude they tend to be unhappy, dislike, or oppose an object.

Table 3. Relationship between parental characteristics and student knowledge and attitudes

Independent Variable	Dependent variable	Sig value.
• Last education	Knowledge of School Al-	0.694
• Job status	Maarif 03 students,	0.513
• Income	Singosari District, Malang	0.512
• History of Early Marriage	Regency	0.955
• Last education	The attitude of students at	0.048*
• Job status	School Al-Maarif 03,	0.732
• Income	Singosari District, Malang	0.409
• History of Early Marriage	Regency	0.006*

Table description: (*) sig value. <0.05 (influential factor)

Based on the research results, there are two variables that have a significant influence on the attitudes of students at State Islamic Boarding School Al-Maarif 03 Singosari Malang, namely their last education and their parents' history of early marriage. The other variables have sig values. >0.05, where this figure shows that it does not have a significant influence on the knowledge or attitudes of students at State Islamic Boarding School Al-Maarif 03 Singosari, Malang.

Relationship between parents' latest education and students' knowledge

The results of the analysis show that the p value of 0.694 is greater than 0.05, so there is no relationship between parents' latest education and the knowledge of State Islamic Boarding School Al-Maarif 03 Singosari, Malang. This research is supported by research conducted by (Dwimawati & Anisa, 2018) which stated that there was no relationship found between parental education and knowledge about reproductive health among students at SMK YAK 1 Bogor with a p value of 0.346 (Dwimawati & Anisa, 2018). However, this is not in line with research conducted by (Maryani & Anggraeni, 2022) in Tangerang City. In Maryani and Anggraeni's research, significant results were obtained between parental education which had a p value of 0.000811.

No relationship was found between parents' last education and students' knowledge in this study, which could be caused by several things, including:

Parental Involvement in Children's Education: Although formal parental education can provide a strong foundation for children's development and growth, parental involvement in children's education such as reading together, supporting school assignments, and stimulating children's interest in learning can make a significant contribution to increasing children's knowledge.

Parenting Style: Parental parenting style, including the level of support, control, and openness can also influence children's cognitive development and knowledge. Parents who support, provide encouragement, and provide an environment that stimulates learning will tend to have children with a higher level of knowledge.

Environment: The environment in which children live, including the social and cultural environment, can also influence the level of knowledge. Interactions with peers, school experiences, and access to educational resources in the surrounding environment also play a role in shaping children's knowledge (Shaban et al., 2020).

The Relationship between Parental Employment Status and Student Knowledge

The results of the analysis show that the p value of 0.513 is greater than 0.05, so there is no relationship between parents' employment status and the knowledge of State Islamic Boarding School Al-Maarif 03 Singosari, Malang. This result is supported by Dwimawati and Anisa (2018)

who stated that there is no relationship between parents' work and knowledge about reproductive health of students at SMK YAK 1 Bogor with a p value of 0.49813. However, this research contradicts research conducted by Handayani (2014) which was carried out in Rokan Hulu Regency, specifically in North Tambusai District. In this study, significant results were obtained between parents' employment status and adolescents' knowledge with a p value of 0.009 (Handayani, 2014).

The relationship between parents' employment status and children's knowledge is not always linear or has a direct impact. Although parents' employment status can influence several aspects of children's lives such as access to economic resources and the home environment, there are several factors that also influence children's knowledge, including:

Type of Parent's Job: The type of work done by parents also has an impact on the information obtained from the workplace. Parents who work in the fields as farmers will receive different information compared to parents who work as teachers. This will influence the insight that parents have based on their field of work.

Life experience: Children's life experiences outside the formal education environment also influence the formation of knowledge. Interaction with peers, participation in extracurricular activities, and exploration outside the classroom also contribute to the knowledge that children have.

Education quality: Although parents' employment status can influence access to economic resources, the quality of education received by children is also very important. Factors such as school quality, parental involvement in children's education, and teaching quality can influence children's knowledge (Rahmawati et al., 2019).

The Relationship between Parental Income and Student Knowledge

The results of the analysis show that the p value of 0.512 is greater than 0.05, so there is no relationship found between parental income and the knowledge of State Islamic Boarding School Al-Maarif 03 Singosari, Malang. This research is supported by (Wulanuari et al., 2017) which states that there is no relationship between parental income and knowledge about early marriage, with a p value of 0.356 (Wulanuari et al., 2017). The income of the students' parents is almost more than 90% below the UMK for Malang Regency. But students still go to school because the education they get is free of charge. State Islamic Boarding School Al-Maarif 03 is a private school foundation of the Nahdlatul Ulama Ma'arif Education Implementing Agency (BPPPMNU). Students can still go to school and pursue education without having to worry about the costs involved. Therefore, there is no relationship between parental income and student knowledge in this study.

However, this is in contrast to research by (Maryani & Anggraeni, 2022) in Tangerang City. In this research, the p value was 0.02114. Economic factors are the main driving factors that can move many sectors in human life. This affects teenagers' knowledge about early marriage. Young women who marry at a young age are considered to be able to ease the burden on families who are below the poverty line.

Relationship between parents' early marriage history and students' knowledge

The results of the analysis show that the p value of 0.955 is greater than 0.05, so there is no relationship between the history of early marriage of parents and the knowledge of State Islamic Boarding School Al-Maarif 03 Singosari, Malang students in, Malang Regency. Although parents' history of early marriage can influence the overall family context, the relationship between parents' history of early marriage and children's knowledge about early marriage can be influenced by various other factors that need to be considered, such as communication factors. The results of the analysis on this variable show that the majority of parents rarely tell their children about their married life. This was proven in the field during data collection where the majority of respondents did not know when their parents got married or when their parents got married.

However, this knowledge is not in line with research conducted by (Arimurti & Nurmala, 2017) in Bondowoso Regency, specifically in Wonosari District, which was descriptive research and used a qualitative approach method. Parents, family or the surrounding environment can influence women's knowledge about early marriage. In this research, it was found from interviews that respondents gained knowledge about early marriage through their parents' history of early marriage. Respondents saw their parents' early marriage and their families looked happy and peaceful in living their lives.

The Relationship between Parental Education and Student Attitudes

The results of the Chi-square analysis showed a figure of 0.048, so there was no relationship found between parents' latest education and the attitudes of State Islamic Boarding School Al-Maarif 03 Singosari, Malang. This research is supported by (et al., 2020) who stated that there is a relationship between parents' latest education and teenagers' attitudes towards early marriage in Trowulan District, Mojokerto Regency with a value of 0.03. However, this is in contrast to (Wuluanuari et al., 2017) in Gading Hamlet, Banjarnegara Regency. In this study, a p value of 0.290 was obtained, which shows that there is no relationship between mother's education and children's knowledge, and a value of 0.436, which shows that there is no relationship between father's education and children's knowledge 18.

Parental education can influence children's attitudes about early marriage for the following reasons: Values and Norms Education: Parents who have higher education tend to be more open to ideas of social change and values such as gender equality, the importance of education, and freedom in choosing a life partner.

Understanding Risks and Consequences: Parents are more aware of the risks and consequences of big decisions, such as marrying at a young age. They are better able to provide children with a broader perspective about marriage and about the implications of early marriage. Examples include hindering your career or education.

Critical Skills Building: Education can help a person develop critical and analytical skills. Children of parents with more education may be better trained to question stereotypes about early marriage. Access to information or discussions regarding sexual education between parents and children is also more open.

Role Model: Children can imitate their parents' behavior whether consciously or not. Parents with higher education may show a more critical attitude and more open-mindedness about early marriage. This can influence the child's attitude (Indah et al., 2023).

The Relationship between Parental Employment Status and Student Attitudes

The results of the analysis show a value of 0.732 so there is no relationship between parents' employment status and the attitudes of State Islamic Boarding School Al-Maarif 03 Singosari, Malang. This research is in line with research by Ardayani (2020) which shows that there is no relationship between the jobs held by parents and teenagers' attitudes about early marriage in Bandung Regency, specifically in Babakan Village, Ciparay District, with a value of 0.677. However, this is in contrast to Vidalia and Azinar (2022) in Sukadana District, East Lampung Regency. The results of this research show a value of 0.000, which means that there is a relationship between parents' employment status and teenagers' attitudes about early marriage (Vidalia & Azinar, 2022).

Although parental employment status may play a role in shaping the family environment, other factors such as personal experiences, family values, and social context also need to be considered in explaining the relationship with children's attitudes about early marriage.

Personal experience: A person's attitude towards early marriage can be influenced by personal experiences and the experiences of those closest to them. If a child has positive or negative experiences related to early marriage in their social environment that are not related to their parents' employment status, this can further influence attitudes.

Family Values and Culture: Family values and culture may have a greater impact on children's attitudes toward early marriage than parents' employment status. Parents who have different employment statuses can still have the same family values and norms that they teach their children.

Social and Environmental: Wider social and cultural environmental factors, including the norms of the society in which children live, can also influence their attitudes towards early marriage. This may have a greater impact than parental employment status.

The Relationship between Parental Income and Student Attitudes

The results of the Chi-square analysis show a value of 0.409, so there is no relationship between parental income and the attitudes of State Islamic Boarding School Al-Maarif 03 Singosari, Malang. This result is supported by Ardayani (2020) who showed that there was no relationship between parents' income and teenagers' attitudes about early marriage in Babakan Village, Ciparay District, Bandung Regency with a value of 0.122. However, this figure is in contrast to Vidalia and Azinar (2022) in Sukadana District, East Lampung Regency. In this study, a result of 0.001 was found, indicating that there was a relationship between parental income and teenagers' attitudes about early marriage.

There are several factors why parental income is not related to children's attitudes, including: **Values and Culture:** Children's attitudes about early marriage tend to be influenced by the values and norms taught at home. These values may not always correlate with parental income, but rather with the culture and family values instilled from an early age.

Awareness: Educational awareness about the problem of early marriage may vary independently of parental income. Children from different economic backgrounds may have equal access to information and education about the importance of delaying marriage and understanding the implications.

Social environment: Personal experiences or social environmental influences can shape children's attitudes about early marriage rather than parents' income levels. Children may form their views based on family experiences, interactions with peers, or the influence of social media.

Parental Involvement: Parental involvement in guiding their children on the issue of early marriage may be more important than their income level. Parents who are actively involved in discussing the values, risks, and consequences of early marriage may have a greater influence on their children's attitudes than their income level.

The Relationship between parental history of early marriage and student attitudes

The results of the analysis showed a value of 0.006 so that there was no relationship between parents' early marriage history and the attitudes of State Islamic Boarding School Al-Maarif 03 Singosari, Malang. The following are several factors on how a parent's history of early marriage can impact a teenager's attitudes:

Communication: Communication regarding direct or indirect experiences from parents can influence children's views about early marriage. Children may value the immediate impact of early marriage on their families or see their parents' experiences as a lesson about the importance of waiting until they are fully ready before marrying.

Family environment: Parents' history of early marriage can reflect family dynamics and values that may influence adolescents' attitudes towards early marriage. Children from families with a history of early marriage may be more likely to consider factors such as emotional readiness and relationship stability in their considerations about marriage. **Information:** Comprehensive sexual education and information about the consequences of early marriage can influence teenagers' attitudes towards the topic. Teens who are well educated on these issues may be more inclined to evaluate marriages carefully and consider relevant factors Khaparistia, E., & Edward, E. (2015).

CONCLUSION

Based on the results of research conducted at State Islamic Boarding School Al-Maarif 03, namely "The Relationship between Parental Characteristics and Adolescents' Knowledge and Attitudes Regarding Early Marriage in Singosari District, Malang Regency" it was concluded that there was no relationship between parental characteristics consisting of recent education, status, employment, income, and history of early marriage on the knowledge of State Islamic Boarding School Al-Maarif 03 Singosari, Malang students. The relationship between parental characteristics consisting of employment status and income does not have a significant relationship with the attitudes of State Islamic Boarding School Al-Maarif 03 Singosari, Malang student. However, parental characteristics consisting of recent education and history of early marriage have a significant value on the attitudes of State Islamic Boarding School Al-Maarif 03 Singosari, Malang students with a sig. 0.048 and 0.006. Researchers hope that the results of this research can be used as a guide for future research that has a similar theme regarding early marriage. It is hoped that future researchers will be able to dig deeper into the characteristics of parents in other areas so that they can be generalized to a larger population. In addition, researchers can study more broadly the characteristics of parents that have not been examined in this study.

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