

## FACTORS RELATED TO EARLY AGE MARRIAGE AT MAMUJU DISTRICT WEST SULAWESI PROVINCE

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### ABSTRACT

The government through the BKKBN has set the ideal age of marriage in order to realize family welfare and quality to reduce the rate of population growth through the age of the first marriage. The objective of this study is to identify factors related to early marriage at Mamuju District. This research type is mix methodology. The populations in this study were all fertile-age couples in Karema Village, Buttuada Village, Karampuang Village and West Leling Village with 4,256 households. The sample of this study was part of fertile-age couples as many as 811 people. The sampling used was purposive sampling technique. Data analysis was using univariate, bivariate with chi square and multiple logistic regressions, while for the qualitative data was using content analysis. The results obtained that the variables which related to early married are knowledge ( $p = 0,049$ ), and income level ( $p = 0.007$ ). While the variables which are not related to the early married are social culture ( $p = 0.07$ ) and family support ( $p = 0.329$ ). Multivariate analysis showed that the social culture is the most responsible factor of early marriage ( $OR = 1.550$ ). Based on content analysis, relevant institutions already have effective programs related to the early marriage. Conclusion of the study is: there is an association between knowledge and income level and early marriage at Mamuju District 2015.

**Keywords:** UKP, knowledge, culture, family support

### INTRODUCTION

Humans as social being in the society are living in groups both small and large groups, and will interact and need each other. One of the group forming processes is by marriage. Marriage is one of the processes in life and very important for everyone. The process of legal marriage based on law, religion and does not violate the prevailing custom norms among the public so as the welfare and qualified family can be built (Junaedi, 2013).

Indonesia is still a part of the countries with high percentage of early marriage in the world, which ranked 37<sup>th</sup> and the 2<sup>nd</sup> country in ASEAN regional after Cambodia (UNICEF in BKKBN, 2012). The result of Basic Health Research (*Riskesdas*) in 2010 showed there still

46.7% proportion of women who married under the age of 20 years old (10-19 years), while the women group with the first marriage age of 20-34 years old had a proportion of 47%, in the cohort of 15-19 years old age, there were 20 pregnancies of 1,000 women. IDHS 2012 which referred to the previous three years incident, get higher rate estimation, 48 births of 1,000 women aged 15-19 years old. *Riskesdas* 2013 showed a slight increase in pregnancies of the age group 10-19 years old and a decrease in pregnancies of the age group 20-24 years.

Ideal marriage age is 21 years old for women and 25 years old for men. In fact, the ideal marriage age is not practiced by the community. There are still many cases of early age marriage. This is shown by the West Sulawesi IDHS data result in 2007

that the average age of the first marriage was 19.3 years old and 19.1 years old in 2012. This data illustrates a decline in UKP median of women in West Sulawesi that should be increased. Aspects which influence the first marriage age are economic, social, cultural and religious factors. The low age at first marriage of women in West Sulawesi causes high number of <20 years old birth rate. IDHS data 2007 showed that the Age Specific Fertility Rate (ASFR) number of 15-19 years old was 80 births and increased to 103 births in 2012.

Behavior of early age marriage is influenced by many factors and habits, such as: education, economic status, parents perception and parents characteristics (Junaedi, 2013). According to *Riskesdas* 2010, very young age marriages (10-14 years old) are many occurred to woman in rural area, low education, poor economic status and farmer/fisherman/labor group (Ayu, 2012). This study aims to identify associated factors to the low age at first marriage in Mamuju, West Sulawesi province in 2015.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

This research type was using mix methodology. For quantitative data was using observational with cross sectional design, while qualitative data was using content analysis. This study was conducted in Mamuju District with each location selection represents the urban area located in Karema Village, mountainous area in Buttuada Village, coastal area in the Karampuang Village and rural area in West Leling village in October-November 2015. The populations in this study are all fertile-age couples in each research location with the number of all fertile-age

couples (BPS, 2013) in Karema Village of 3,172 households, Buttuada Village of 290 households, Karampuang village of 620 households and West Leling Village of 174 households. The sample in this research is a part of fertile-age couples in the research location by using the Sample Size Lameshow with 0.5 precision so that the samples number of each are Binanga Sub-district of 287, Buttuada village of 166, Karampuang Village of 238, West Leling Village of 120 so the overall total sample are 811. The samples were taken by using purposive sampling technique. Data analysis was conducted by using Univariat, bivariate with chi square test and multiple logistic regression. Data presentation are in tables, matrix and narrative.

## RESULTS

Most respondents were female (86.4%) with the highest education level was elementary school (33.5%). Based on the education level of most respondents' couple was elementary school (32.6%). The education level of most respondent's father was elementary school (46%) and education level of most respondent's mother was elementary school (49.4%). Most of respondents were Islam (76.2%). Most respondents' marriage duration were in the range of >10 years (47.7%) with the most number of children was 2 (28%).

The analysis results of the independent variables show that the respondents' knowledge of the first marriage age is in fair category (79.8%). Variable of households income is more in 'enough' category (57.5%), social and cultural variable is more in 'doesn't support at first marriage age' (86.6%),

however more respondents with a family ‘supports early age at first marriage’ (57.2% ). The dependent variable analysis

result of the first marriage age indicates that more respondents were in early age at their first marriage (66.7%) (Table 1).

Table 1. Univariate Analysis Result of Factors Affecting The First Marriage Age In Mamuju District, West Sulawesi Province

Variable	n	%
<b>Knowledge</b>		
Lack	164	20,2
Fair	647	79,8
<b>Household Income</b>		
Less	345	42,5
Fair	466	57,5
<b>Social Cultural</b>		
Support	109	13,4
Not Support	702	86,6
<b>Family Support</b>		
Support	464	57,2
Not Support	347	42,8
<b>First Marriage Age</b>		
Early Age	541	66,7
Adult age	270	33,3

The bivariate analysis shows that 164 respondents were less knowledge level, 120 people (73.2%) were married at an early age, and 44 people (28.8%) were married at the adult age with a statistical test (chi square) the p value was 0.049 ( $p < 0.05$ ), and thus  $H_0$  was rejected, which means that there is a correlation between the knowledge level and the first marriage age. Analysis result of income variable show that 345 respondents were in less income, 248 respondent (71.9%) were married at early age and 97 respondents (28.1%) were married at the adult age, by a statistical test (chi square) the p value was 0.007 ( $p < 0.05$ ), and thus  $H_0$  is rejected, which means that there is a correlation between income and the first marriage age. The analysis result of the socio-cultural variable show that 109 respondents support the social and

cultural, 81 respondents (74.3%) were married at early age and 28 respondents (25.7%) were married at adult age, with a statistical test (chi square) the p value was 0, 07 ( $p > 0.05$ ), and thus  $H_0$  is accepted, which means that there is no correlation between socio-cultural and first marriage age. Family support variable analysis results show that of 464 respondents with a supportive family, 316 people (68.1%) were married at early age and 148 people (31.9%) were married at the adult age with a statistical test (chi square) the p value was 0.329 ( $p > 0.05$ ), and thus  $H_0$  is accepted, which means that there is no correlation between family support and first marriage age (Table 2).

This study results obtained that the most average number of children in group were 2, 3 and 4, in fact there were respondents who had children up to 10

children or more. This meant that the first marriage age (UKP) does not only affect the fertility level but also the mother birth mortality rate, according to the in depth interview results that has been done that impact of pregnancy at a very young age led to bleeding and abortion on the mother, in addition to the mother has no physically

and spiritual readiness to care for her child. This study is in line with Raharja research (2014) that the number of children born alive by young women of 15-19 years old showed that among those with married status who have had one child born alive was 95%, while 5% have had 2-3 children born alive.

Table 2. Bivariate Analysis Result of Factors Affecting The First Marriage Age In Mamuju District, West Sulawesi Province

Variable	First Marriage Age				Total		Statistical Test Result
	Early		Adult		n	%	
	n	%	n	%			
<b>Knowledge</b>							
Lack	120	73,2	44	26,8	164	100	<b>0,049</b>
Fair	421	65,1	226	34,9	647	100	
<b>Household Income</b>							
Less	248	71,9	97	28,1	345	100	<b>0,007</b>
Fair	293	62,9	173	37,1	466	100	
<b>Social Culture</b>							
Support	81	74,3	28	25,7	109	100	<b>0,07</b>
Not Support	460	65,5	242	34,5	702	100	
<b>Family Support</b>							
Support	316	68,1	148	31,9	464	100	<b>0,329</b>
Not Support	225	64,8	122	35,2	347	100	

The decision to married can be influenced by circumstances or socio-economic background and culture of the people. The Lower age of first marriage in a region illustrates that in the region occurred early marriage. Puspitasari Research (2006) suggests that the factors that affect the marriage at early age are economic factors (early marriage occurs in families who have economic less/poor conditions), Self factors (the couple who

married at the young age by their own willingness and knowledge obtained from the film or media that are affected to married at young age), educational factors (lack of parents education caused narrowed mindset that can affect parents to marry their daughter), and parents factors (parents hereditary tradition to marry their children when they consider their children already adult).

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In this study, the results of statistical test analysis showed that there is a

correlation between the knowledge level and first marriage age. The result is consistent with Rafidah research (2009) that the respondents who have less perception/knowledge are at 2.5 greater risk of getting married at the age of 20 years old compared to respondents who have a good perception about marriage. Good knowledge of the respondents about the marriage will reduce the risk of early age to get married. If a woman has enough knowledge about early marriage, then he will try to get married at the age of adulthood. A psychic woman who married at early age is not yet ready to take on the responsibilities of parents for their children. The knowledge level of a person will affect behavior, because before someone knows in advance about what's the meaning and benefits of such a behavior for herself and her family he will not adopt such behavior. A woman who has a good knowledge of reproduction will definitely be more considerate about the marriage age, because they know what consequences of early marriage on reproductive health (Stang and mambaya, 2011). Someone's knowledge differences about a stimulation caused by differences in socio-cultural and learning experience of the individual. The learning experience is acquired through education. Education can influence a woman to delay the age of marriage. The longer a woman to attend classes, then theoretically the higher age of their first married. A women who graduated from junior high school, then at least she married at the age of over 16 years old, when married at after the age of senior high school means at least 19 years old and then when married after graduating a college education means at least aged over 22 years (Hartono in Utina,

2014). In this study, respondents' level of education most at the level of elementary school and junior high school, thereby affecting the change in respondents attitude. Knowledge can also be interpreted as the individual views to their environment. For the parents highest education in this study is only elementary school. These results are consistent Rafidah research (2009) in the elderly, Lack of knowledge gives 1.5 times greater risk to marry off their children at age <20 years old compared to parents who have a good knowledge. This means that understanding in adolescent actually more important factor than parent factor. Parents are still more affected in the old cultural values which consider that menstruation/puberty is a sign that the child has grown up. This will support parents attitude towards early marriage and soon to marry their girl when their getting their period. Knowledge about marriage is a major factor in early marriage. Other factors influencing the decision to get married early, starting from the most related, are: youth education, parents do not work, lack of parents knowledge, and family economic difficulties. In this study based on the results of in-depth interview to community leaders and religious leaders that the phenomenon of marriages taking place in the community occurred due to teenager promiscuity. Teenager promiscuity caused by school dropouts to get married at early age. On the other hand the lack of parents knowledge regarding marriage age restrictions and their strong-attached socio-cultural causing the first marriage age in early category in this study is still high at 66.7% of the 811 respondents were interviewed.

Variable income and the first marriage age in this study showed that there is a correlation between income and the first marriage age. This result is consistent with research conducted by Qibtiyah (2012) that as many as 33.9% of respondents did not work and the majority of the respondent's income is still below the regional minimum wage. Therefore, people choose to get married in order to earn a living and economic security of the husband. Community often choose marriage as a way out to overcome the economic difficulties. This are motivated by the reasons of poverty and hope that after the marriage, the family economy become better. Other results of Rafidah research (2009) that most respondents have a low economy family, it gives 1.75 times greater risk to marry at age <20 years old than the respondents who have high economy family. Research results obtained in accordance with previous study which suggested that the economy and poverty contributed to the early marriage.

The study results to the family income in the category enough and less are not much different and the results of in-depth interview said that parents believe that girls are economic capital and marriage is an effort to maintain family life. Thus, the cause of an early marriage age is due to low family income. Low family economy does not ensure the education continuity of children so that when a girl has graduated from elementary school and do not proceed to higher education, just stay at home. From the results of in-depth interview, what's caused an early marriage age is to ease the parents burden due to economic limitation and due to cannot attend school. Economic

factors as one factor that dominate the first marriage for women because the underlying reasons of poverty could not afford their children's school so that parents want their children to get married, wants to remove the responsibility and parents hoped that after his daughter married they would receive economic aid. In this study, respondents generally only graduated from elementary school and junior high school, with these conditions instead of being a burden on families then finally parents encourage their children to get married, especially in girls. Therefore, in a marriage, economically readiness becomes a very important consideration for married couples. Economy readiness means people can afford to be independent, have the sustainable livelihoods so as to meet the household needs and no longer dependent on their parents. Owned employment status in a community can show the economic situation of the community. The ease in obtaining a job opportunity or opening a lot of jobs is the economic indicators of a region or a country.

Socio-cultural and customs circumstances will affect the family size. In this study, the results of statistical test analysis has no association between socio-cultural with the first marriage age. This study is in line with Qibtiyah research (2014) that social and cultural factors are not significantly associated with early marriage. There is a social phenomenon that is experienced by teenagers when stepping puberty age which are dating and teenage promiscuity. This value changes as the result of lax relationship of men and women so often lead to marriage at early age. Results of in-depth interviews conducted in this study to stakeholders and

some religious leaders and community leaders also stated that the low age of first marriage is caused by factors teenage promiscuity and pregnancy outside marriage, so that adds the fact of adverse effects in early pregnancy such as abortion and bleeding.

The study results are also consistent with studies that have been done BKKBN (2012) that there is a negative stigma to spinster status of children aged 17 years who are still attached to the community. From the results of these studies assume as a spinster if unmarried until the age of 17 years. In several studies conducted in some areas is almost the same in determining marriage for her and wanted to get married due to ahamed said as a spinster, so it is better to be a young widow than an spinster. There is also the factor of religion embraced by the local community in which a child is obliged to adhere to parents, if the parents want their children to get married despite her young age, she should follow her parents' will and the important thing is the children already mature. Religious leaders and community leaders stated that marriage at early age to a woman is to guard her against the undesirable things as what's revealed through this study which some people get "unwanted pregnancy", teenage promiscuity, etc.

Family support is the attitude, actions and acceptance of the family members. Family members see that the people who are supportive are always ready to provide help and assistance if needed (Friedman, 1998).

In this study, the results of statistical test analysis showed no association between family support with the first marriage age. Family support is the

support that comes from the father, mother and other family members to perform marriage in early young age. In this research, the family which support for the first marriage age is 57.2% while 42.8% do not support. Social support in general has a positive influence on their psychological and physical well-being and specifically affecting the main health during pregnancy. Social support can improve the sense of wellbeing, personal control, positive feelings, as well as helping women to perceive the changes that occur with lower stress levels. The social network that is closest to the mother is the family. Through various forms of support given by the family, mothers are expected to be able to adjust themselves better during pregnancy. Many women become mature in the course of a pregnancy. It is not solely caused by the responsibility of being a mother that makes them become more mature, but also because of experience dealing with conflicts during pregnancy. The support given by the family can help mother to learn to recognize, accept and use her new feelings about herself and passed the days in nine months with great anticipation and joy.

The level of family support will be correlated with the level of women adjustment of the first marriage age. Through the support of the family as a form of social support, a mother can do a better adjustment during her pregnancy. Social support will improve the psychological well-being and adaptability through a sense of belonging, improved self-esteem etc.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

The study concluded that there is a correlation between knowledge ( $p = 0,049$ ), and income level ( $p = 0.007$ ) with the first marriage age. Sociocultural ( $p = 0.07$ ) and family support ( $p = 0.329$ ) was not associated with at first marriage age. Socio-cultural factors is the most contribute to the first marriage age (OR = 1.550). Relevant parties have had effective programs related to the first marriage age, but the socialization needs to be done effectively to change the community mindset related to the first marriage age.

Recommendation to the relevant stakeholders to continuously disseminate the first marriage age regulation to the community, especially in high schools. It necessary to re-consider along with stakeholders regarding the Marriage Law No. 1 of 1974.

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