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DETERMINANTS OF EARLY MARRIAGE IN INDONESIA: A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW

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ABSTRACT

Background: Early marriage is a formal or informal marriage that entered by individuals before the age of 18. In Indonesia, the marriage age is legally regulated in the Marriage Law with age limit of 16 years for female. This phenomenon contributed to the high number of early marriages and its impacts on maternal and child health. This study aims to examine the determinants of early marriage in Indonesia.

Methods: Journal articles were collected by searching in academic article database, such as Scopus, Google Scholar, Pubmed from 2016 to 2018. Authors used the PRISMA-P protocol (Prefed Reporting Items for Systematic review and Meta-Analysis Protocols) in 2009 as systematic writing guidelines.

Results: Determinants of early marriage in Indonesia were unwanted pregnancy, peer influence, parent role, education level, knowledge of reproductive health, family economic status, culture, and media exposure.

Conclusions: Reviewing Indonesian marriage law is needed to reduce early marriage cases in Indonesia. Improving quality of reproductive health services, improving women's education and improving the economic status of the family is equally important to prevent early marriage and improve maternal and child Health in Indonesia.

Keywords: Early Marriage, Determinants, Maternal and Child Health, Indonesia

INTRODUCTION

Early marriage is a serious problem in many countries, especially in developing countries [1]. Indonesia is included as a country with high rates of early marriage and is ranked 37th in the world. This position is the second highest in ASEAN after Cambodia. Early marriage is spread unevenly across provinces in Indonesia, with the highest prevalence in rural areas. [2].

Maternal and child health in Indonesia remains a serious problem owing to various factors [3]. Demographic and health survey data in Indonesia in 2012 showed 359 maternal mortality rate per 100,000 live births and the infant mortality rate accounted to 32 per 1,000 live births [4]. Maternal deaths occur in women in Indonesia, including the 4 factors during pregnancy: too young age, too old age, close spacing pregnancies, as well as too frequent pregnancy [3]. Early marriage affects various social dimensions including the health of maternal and child.

Early marriage is a marriage done at the age of under 18 years [5]. United Nations (UN) Conventions and Resolutions consider "child, early, and forced marriage" as a fundamental violation of human right [6]. In September 2015, the General Assembly of the United Nations committed to targets eliminating all practices causing specific harm to women and girls, including child marriage (Target 5.3, Goal 5 of the UN Sustainable Development Goals – SDGs [7]).

In many low- and middle-income countries, a greater proportion of female than male marry “under-age,” or below the UN legal threshold of 18 years. In 2011, an estimated 720 million girls aged 18 years or older were married under-age compared with 156 million boys [8]. Between 2000 and 2011, one in three women aged 20–24 years in the global south (excluding China) were estimated to have married before they reached the age of 18 years. In 2010, this was equivalent to nearly 67 million women, with approximately one in nine or 12% marrying as children, before the age of 15 years [9].

The prevalence of child marriage in Indonesia has actually declined more than doubled in the last three decades but is still one of the highest in the East Asia and Pacific region. More than 1 in 6 girls or 340,000 marriages in Indonesia occur in girls under 18 years of age. Based on Susenas 2012 data, 25 percent of women ages 20-24 who have ever married who were married before the age of 18 years, has decreased in percentage from 2008 to 2010 and the rate of child marriage increased in 2011 but then stagnated in 2012. [10].

The high rate of child marriage in Indonesia caused by many factors. One of the causes is its inconsistent laws that protect children from marriage [11]. The 2002 Child Protection Law prohibits any child from getting married before 18 years, but the minimum age for marriage (with parental consent) is 16 for girls and 19 for boys by Article 7 of the 1974 Marriage Law. The Marriage Law also provides opportunities for dispensation, allowing parents to marry their children legally at a younger age, even without their expressed consent. The United Nations Committee on the Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) has urged the Indonesian government to take urgent action to implement stronger protections for girls against all forms of violence, including child marriage [7].

Although early marriage is a problem in Indonesia, but the level of acceptance and practice of early marriages are differs across Indonesia geographically, socially, culturally and religiously [12]. The age of marriage is strongly influenced by cultural law (*adat*) and belief. For example, in some areas of Indonesia, *adat* often result in girls getting married before they finish their education, and there are even parents who marry off their daughters with much older men for economic reasons [13].

Early marriage become a big problem if accompanied by pregnancy. Ignorance about reproductive health and not using contraception to delay pregnancy, are the biggest cause of unwanted pregnancy that lead to early marriage. Early pregnancy impact in physical, social, psychological and health for both mothers and children [14].

The anatomy of girls’ especially reproductive organs is not ready for pregnancy and pelvic bone is still too small so it can endanger the process of labor and can cause complications in the form of obstructed labor and obstetric fistula. Data from UNPFA in 2003, showing 15% -30% of baby delivery at an early age accompanied by chronic complications, namely obstetric fistulas. In addition, girls aged 10-14 are has five times the odds to die, during pregnancy or childbirth, compared to women aged 20-25 while girls aged 15-19 are has twice the odds [12].

Pregnancy at an early age also has an impact on the health of infants, toddlers who are born with low birth weight (LBW) , premature and stunting [15]. Research conducted by Syafik et al mention one factor that causes stunting is a unwanted pregnancy at early marriage [16]. Other studies conducted by Lutfatul and Mekar have a relationship between pregnancy in adolescents with LBW (OR 7) and Premature (OR 3.58) [17] This study aims to look the determinant of early marriage in Indonesia.

METHODS

The research design used in this research is systematic review. Articles are collected through searches in data sources such as Scopus, Google Scholar, Pubmed from 2016-2018. In the systematic writing of this review the authors use the PRISMA-P protocol (Prefed Reporting Items for Systematic review and Meta-Analysis Protocols) in 2009.

Search strategy and study selection

The author searched the sources for a systematic review of 3 electronic data sources (Scopus, Google Scholar, and Pubmed). Keywords for livelihood using PICO-S (Population Intervention Compare Outcome-Study design) techniques are: (1) Early Marriage OR Child Marriage, (2) Determinant, (3) Indonesia, (4) Quantitative study and Qualitative study, within the range of 2016-2018.

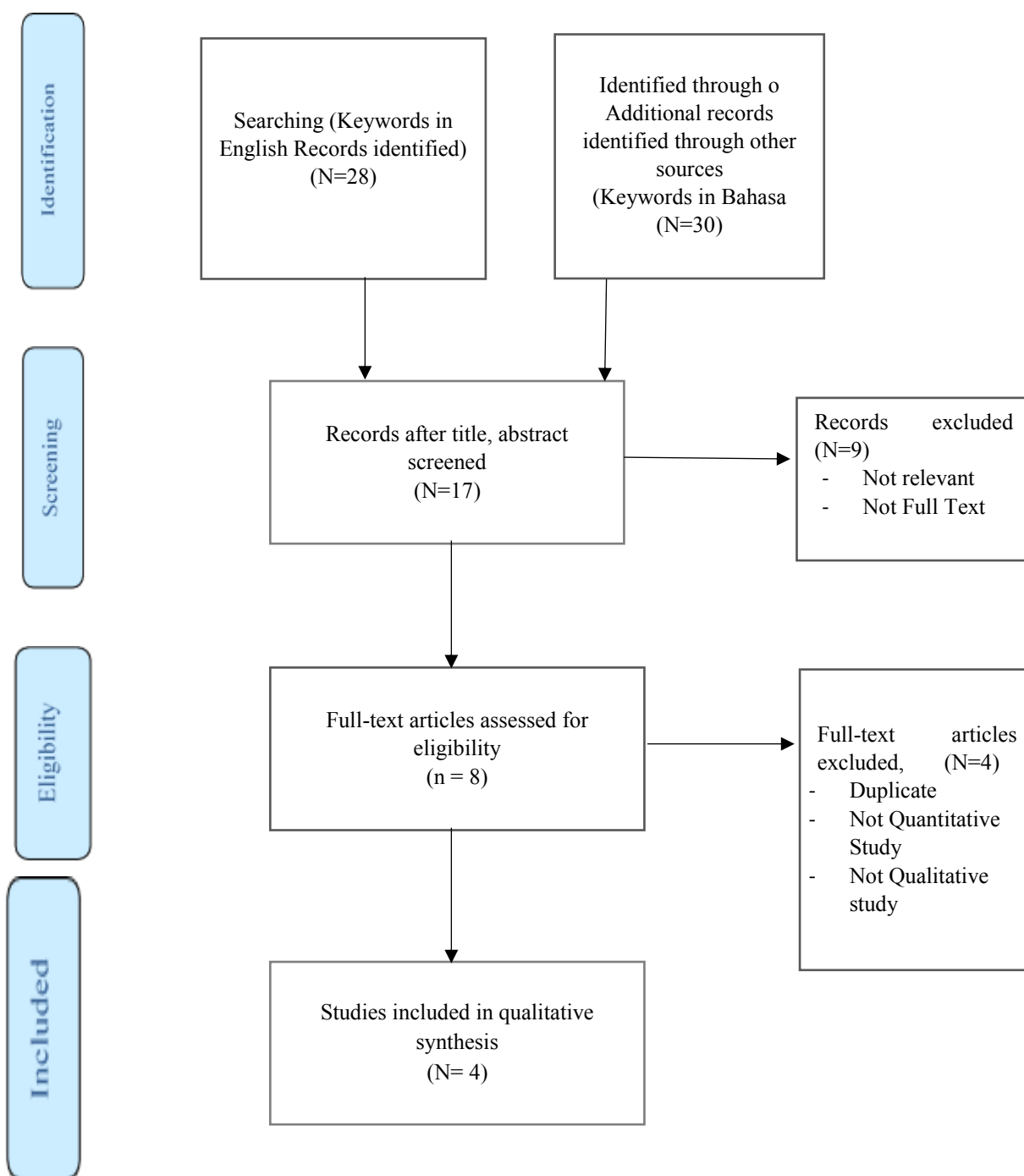


Figure 1. referred Reporting Items for Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis [18] (11)
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Study inclusion criteria

The inclusion criteria of the documents considered in the eligibility for systematic review are: (1) Targeted group: Early Marriage/Child Marriage; (2) Outcomes: Determinant in Indonesia, (3) Research method is by using quantitative or qualitative study, (4) research in English or Indonesian language.

Studi exclusion criteria

The author performs exclusion criteria with a non-full paper and irrelevant writing sketch of the title and abstract. The author also made restrictions in the language, the journal used as the source is a journal in English and Indonesian. Restrictions in the year are also conducted in the year 2016-2018. And duplicate documents will also be issued. Document selection process can be seen in Figure 1

RESULTS

Total studies were found beginning with keyword 28 in english and 30 in indonesia. From the results of skip and full text and not duplicate the remaining 4 studies focused on discussing determinants of Early Marriage in Indonesia.

Table 1. Result of Systematic Review

No	Tittle	Autor	Study	Result
1.	Force, Support and endorsing factors of early marriage in adolescent sasak (sasak ethnic) In Central Lombok	Karjono M Bakta I Made Mangku Karmaya I Nyoman DD Murtiningsih	Cross Sectional	The test results show that Unwanted Pregnancy (KTD) (OR = 3,220; p = 0,001; CI = 1,742 to 3,008) from peer pressure (OR = 4,492; p = 0,001; CI = 2,906 to 5,457) and parent roles (OR = 2.121; p = 0.001; CI = 0.783-1.113) the main cause of early marriage in Sasak adolescents in Central Lombok District.
2.	Determinant of early marriage in Indonesia	Eny widyawati Adi cilik pierewan	Cross Sectional	Education, wealth and media exposure have protective effects across marriage outcomes, while rural residence is a risk factor for the same. There are significant variations by region, indicating roles of religious, ethnic and other geographically diverse factors.
3.	Determinants of early marriage and model of maturing marriage age policy: a case in Jambi	Hardiani Junaidin	Cross sectional	Level of Education, Knowledge of Reproduction Health, Fathers Education, Low Income, Female Work,
4.	An empirical exploration of female child marriage determinants in Indonesia	Lauren Rumble Peterman Nadira Irdiana Margaret Triyana Emilia Minnick	Cross sectional	Significant variables with significance of real level of 0.1 percent were elementary education, low income

Determinant Early Marriage in Indonesia

Based on the analysis of the collected journals, it is found that the determinant of early marriage in Indonesia is Unwanted pregnancy, Peer influence, Parent role, Education level, Knowledge of reproductive health, Family economic status, Culture, Media Exposure, While Rural Residence, Region, Indicating Roles of Religious, Ethnic and Other Geographically

Table 2. Determinants of Early Marriage In Indonesia

No	Location	Sample Size	Study	Result
1.	Central Lombok Distrik	582	Cross Sectional	The test results show that Unwanted Pregnancy (KTD) (OR = 3,220; p = 0,001; CI = 1,742 to 3,008) from peer pressure (OR = 4,492; p = 0,001; CI = 2,906 to 5,457) and parent roles (OR = 2.121; p = 0.001; CI = 0.783-1.113) the main cause of early marriage in Sasak adolescents in Central Lombok District.
2.	Jambi	242	Cross Sectional	Level of Education, Knowledge of Reproduction Health, Fathers Education, Low Income, Female Work,
3	13 Provinces in Indonesia	857	Cross Sectional	Significant variables with significance of real level of 0.1 percent were elementary education, low income
4.	33 Provinces in Indonesia	6578	Cross Sectional	Education, wealth and media exposure have protective effects across marriage outcomes, while rural residence is a risk factor for the same. There are significant variations by region, indicating roles of religious, ethnic and other geographically diverse factors.

DISCUSSION

Declines in the practice of child marriage under age 15 had been seen in the last 30 years, but this changes was inadequate as the continued high prevalence of child marriage under age 18 in South East Asia and sub-Saharan Africa. Girls are married under age for variety of reasons, including the financial need of the girls' family, cultural desires to preserve sexual purity for marriage, religious belief, and external conflict. Additionally, lack of access to education, rural residence, unequal treatment for girls, and poverty were associated with the practice of child marriage [19].

The results of this study are in line with fact in various regions in Indonesia. In terms of culture, *adat* strongly influencing the high number of early marriage. In the Sasak Lombok tribe of West Nusa Tenggara, *adat "merariq"* which has been passed down for generations makes the parents marry off their daughters even before completing basic education. Parents assume that if their daughter is faster "*dilarikan*" then the higher their prestige in society [20]. In terms of religion, community in Sukabumi West Java prefer to marry off their children even though they are not old enough because of their child's adulterous worries if they start dating. In Indramayu area many child marriages are driven by economic factors. Parents wish to increase family status by marry off their children with families with better economic level. [21].

Result also indicate that in Indonesia, education is a strong protective factor against child marriage and to the preferences and attitudes of adverse outcome of child marriage. [22]. The higher the education of a girl, the lower the chances of getting married early. Education opens the horizon of thinking the women in Indonesia who live in urban areas to decide not to marriage in early age. Education also correlates with the job opportunities as the higher the education the more open employment opportunities that ultimately improve the economic status of the family.

Geographical and residential area also affect the prevalence of early marriage [7]. Rural resident are tend to be more vulnerable to early marriage due to various factors. Low access to education and access to information, low economic, strong attachment to cultural and *adat*, increasingly affecting the high rates of early marriage in rural areas [10].

At the age of children and adolescents they are looking for identity. The influence of globalization, promiscuity, peer influence and lack knowledge of reproductive health and contraception are major

factors in the occurrence of unwanted pregnancy that contribute to the high rate of early marriage. Research conducted in Bantul Regency Yogyakarta stated that knowledge about reproductive health has significant effect with attitude toward early marriage [23].

The inconsistency of the child protection arrangements in matters of marriage leads to practice of early marriage and child marriage. Dispensation to marry off also contributes to the attitude of the community that accepting child marriage. To suppress early marriage more serious action from the government and all levels of society is needed. The postponement of marriage age by considering amendments to the Marriage Law is a strategic move [3]. It is no less important that communities and local governments can do things that can be intervened by them. In terms of culture, some provinces in Indonesia have been one step ahead. In the Sasak tribe of West Nusa Tenggara to suppress early marriage due to *merariq* culture, the Indonesian women's coalition with the Child Protection Commission along with local policy makers arranged local law *Awig-awig*. In Sasak, *Awig-awig* means rules or policies that apply at the village level. This local law is structured by giving social sanctions to underage *merariq* perpetrators, and proven can suppress child marriage [21].

The socialization of reproductive health and the postponement of marriage with various innovations made by some regions could also be used as a pilot by other regions in Indonesia. For example, Campakawarna Village, Cianjur District, with Kampung KB program. Cianjur is one of the districts in West Java that face the high prevalence of child marriage. In Gedangsari Sub-district, Gunungkidul, Yogyakarta there is also a similar innovation with the program named '*Ayunda Si Menik*'-acronym for "*Ayo tunda Usia Menikah* (Come on Snooze Age Married)." This program has successfully changes the perception of parents about early marriage so that early marriage can be suppressed [21].

The 9-year study compulsory program must continue to be socialized to remote areas. Ease of access to information, free of cost of school for poor families, the availability of adequate facilities, are important things that must be prepared by the government in order to improve the level of education of children, especially girls in Indonesia. The government should provide job opportunities to improving economic status, the equal distribution of development, and wide open access to information are part of the intervention needed to suppress the early marriage rate in Indonesia

CONCLUSION AND RECOMENDATION

Maturity of marriage age in Indonesia by reviewing marriage law is a strategic step in an attempt to put the case of early marriage. Improving Quality of Reproductive Health Services, Improving Women's Education and improving the economic status of the family are equally important in preventing Early Marriage and improving Maternal and Child Health in Indonesia. Reviewing marriage law and increasing the age limitation for marriage could be a strategic step to decrease prevalency of child marriage in Indonesia. Innovation program related to adolescent health, equitable access across provinces especially in rural and geographic areas are needed. Improvement education program is needed to achieve better economic status of the family and so early marriage could be prevent.

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