

Original Article

***Analysing the Relationship between Knowledge, Education Level and Economic Status with Early Marriage in Married Couples in Sindangheula Village, Serang Regency***

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**ABSTRACT**

*Early marriage is a social issue that affects various aspects of community life, including individual and family welfare. Knowledge, education level, and economic status have been identified as factors that may influence of early marriage in the region. The purpose of this study was to determine the relationship between knowledge, education level, and economic status with early marriage in married couples in Sindangheula Village, Serang Regency in 2023. This study used a correlational method with a cross-sectional approach. The sample was 79 respondents selected using a random generator system where all names within the population were included in the system and then randomly chosen according to a predetermined quantity. Findings indicated a minority (20.3%) reported early marriage, while a significant proportion exhibited poor knowledge (35.4%) and low education levels (41.8%). Moreover, a minority (29.1%) reported poor economic status. Statistical analysis revealed significant relationships between knowledge ( $p_v = .025$ ), education level ( $p_v = .001$ ), economic status ( $p_v = .002$ ), and early marriage. Multivariate analysis further confirmed these associations ( $R^2 = .154$ , adjusted  $R^2 = .120$ ,  $F = 4.540$ ,  $P_v < 0.05$ ), with a positive  $\beta$  value (0.263). The research results also revealed a positive  $\beta$  value (0.263). It is recommended that village officials can provide information and health education to adolescents and parents about marriage as well as provide motivation and beneficial activities for the development of the Sindangheula Village, Serang Regency.*

**Keywords:** Knowledge, Education Level, Economic Status, Early Marriage, Health Education.

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**INTRODUCTION**

Early marriage, which is a marriage entered into by young people under the age of 20 who are not physically or mentally ready to enter a marriage bond, is a phenomenon that has plagued many countries around the world<sup>1</sup>. The impact of early marriage is not only local but also has significant consequences globally. Moreover, Indonesia is one of the countries

with a high rate of early marriage, with the number of marriages of children under the age of 18 reaching alarming numbers<sup>2</sup>.

The impact of early marriage is not limited to reproductive health issues but also includes the risk of forced marriage, early sexual intercourse, teenage pregnancy, and complications that can arise during pregnancy and childbirth. In Indonesia alone, data shows that the highest rates of early marriage are

found in several provinces, such as South Kalimantan, West Java, and East Kalimantan, with alarming rates<sup>3</sup>.

The consequences of early marriage not only impact physical health but also the psychological for the couples involved. Lack of adequate preparation and knowledge about marital responsibilities can cause deep stress and trauma, even potentially disrupting harmony in newly built families<sup>4</sup>.

The causes of early marriage vary according to the circumstances of society and social life. Low education and low-paid jobs can also cause children to marry young. Marrying young reduces the burden on parents. Low-income parents more often marry their children and economic factors become an obstacle to sending children to college<sup>5</sup>. Well-informed people tend not to marry young, especially to see the lives of young couples who marry young and gain knowledge about early marriage from those around them. Most young couples experience financial difficulties. However, there are still many people who lack knowledge because they do not know the impact of marrying at a young age, do not think about the next life, and cannot assess whether the decision to build a family will lead to a comfortable life<sup>6</sup>.

Education level and economic status have also been shown to be significant factors in early marriage trends. Low education and economic limitations are often the driving forces for children to marry at a very young age. Unstable social and economic conditions often force children to make inappropriate decisions about marriage.

Although several studies have been conducted to identify factors contributing to early marriage, further research is needed to better understand the relationship between knowledge, education, and economic status with the phenomenon of early marriage at the local level, such as in Sindangheula Village, Serang Regency. Through this research, it is hoped that effective strategies can be found to reduce the prevalence of early marriage and improve community welfare in Sindangheula Village as well as other areas in Indonesia that experience similar problems. With a better

understanding of the factors that influence early marriage, appropriate programs can be implemented to prevent this practice and protect the rights and welfare of children in the future.

The results of a preliminary study that involved interviews with seven teenagers who got married young were as follows: three said they got married because they couldn't afford to go to school; two said they thought getting married would ease the financial burden of raising a family because their parents' income was only mediocre; and two said it was better to get married than to sin. According to data collected from Sindang Heula Village, 16 individuals between the ages of 18 and 19 were married early in 2021, and 16 individuals between the ages of 16 and 19 were married early in 2022 and 2023. In addition, from the initial survey, 5 out of 7 respondents experienced pregnancy and childbirth at a very young age, 1 of them had a miscarriage, 2 of them experienced delayed child growth because they did not know how to process food for their babies, 2 people experienced postpartum blues. Based on the data and phenomena above, the researcher is interested in knowing "Analysing the Relationship between Knowledge, Education Level and Economic Status with Early Marriage in Married Couples in Sindangheula Village, Serang Regency in 2023".

## METHOD

The type of research in this study is correlational through a *cross-sectional* approach. The population used in this study were 259 couples who got married in 2021-2023 in Sindangheula Village, Serang Regency. The sample size was 79 respondents. The sampling technique is a *simple random sampling* technique. This research was started from March to June 2023. The research instrument used in this study was a questionnaire about the level of education, economic status, and knowledge of early marriage. This research activity was carried out after obtaining *ethical clearance ethical* number: No. 225/KEPK.UF/V/2023.

## RESULTS

**Table 1. Frequency distribution of knowledge, education level, and economic status of early marriage in married couples in Sindangheula Village, Serang Regency in 2023.**

Variables	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
<b>Wedding</b>		
Early Marriage	16	20,3
Not Married Early	63	79,7
Total	79	100
<b>Knowledge</b>		
Less good	42	53,2
Good	37	46,8
<b>Education Level</b>		
Low	33	41,8
High	46	58,2
<b>Economic Status</b>		
Less <UMR	23	29,1
Good $\geq$ minimum wage	56	70,9
Total	79	100

Based on Table 1, it is known that out of a total of 79 (100%) respondents, it was found that most couples did not marry at an early age, namely 63 respondents (79.7%), almost most had poor knowledge, namely 42

respondents (53.2%), almost most had high education, namely 46 respondents (58.2%), most had good economic status, namely 56 respondents (70.9%).

**Table 2. Relationship between knowledge, education level, economic status and early marriage**

Knowledge	Wedding				Total	P-value	OR	
	Early Marriage		Not Married Early					
	f	%	f	%				
Less good	13	31,0	29	69,0	42	100	0,025	5,080
Good	3	8,1	34	91,9	37	100		
<b>Education Level</b>								
Low	13	39,4	20	60,6	33	100	0,001	9,317
High	3	6,5	43	93,5	46	100		
<b>Economic Status</b>								
Less <UMR	10	43,5	13	56,5	23	100	0,002	6,410
Good $\geq$ minimum wage	6	10,7	50	89,3	56	100		
Total	16	20,3	63	79,7	79	100		

Based on table 2, it is known that out of a total of 42 (100%) respondents whose knowledge is not good, most of them do not marry at an early age, namely 29 respondents (69.0%). Meanwhile, out of a total of 37 (100%) respondents whose knowledge was good, almost all did not marry at an early age, namely 34 respondents (91.9%). The results of

statistical tests found there was a relationship between knowledge and early marriage in Sindangheula Village. The results of other statistical tests obtained an OR value of 5.080, meaning that the poor knowledge group has a risk of 5.080 times performing early marriage compared to the good knowledge respondent group.

**Table 3. Final Results of Logistic Regression of Early Marriage Incidence in Sindangheula Village, Serang Regency in 2023**

Variables Associated with Early Marriage	Coefficient $\beta$	Standard Error	Standard $\beta$	t
Knowledge	0,246	0,287	0,106	0,856
Education Level	1,547	0,637	0,263	2,429
Economic Status	1,111	0,801	0,174	1,387

*R<sup>2</sup> .154, Adjusted R<sup>2</sup> .120, F= 4,540*

*\*p-value < 0,05*

Based on Table 3, the results of the multivariate analysis show that all factors related to early marriage yielded  $R^2 = .154$ , adjusted  $R^2 = .120$ ,  $F = 4.540$ , and  $p\text{-value} < 0.05$ . The research results also revealed a positive  $\beta$  value (0.263), indicating a positive relationship between education level and the likelihood of early marriage. This means that the higher someone's level of education, the higher the likelihood of them not marrying at an early age. The  $p\text{-value}$  of 0.018 indicates that the relationship between education level and early marriage is statistically significant because it is smaller than the common significance level ( $p\text{-value} < 0.05$ ).

## DISCUSSION

### **Frequency Distribution of Knowledge, Education Level, Economic Status of Early Marriage in Married Couples in Sindangheula Village, Serang Regency, 2023**

Early marriage is the marriage of adolescents under the age of 20 who should not be ready for marriage<sup>7</sup>. The National Population and Family Planning Agency (BKKBN) states that the ideal age for someone to have their first marriage is 21 years for women and 25 years for men with consideration of the maturity of a person's biological and psychological conditions at that age<sup>8</sup>. The results showed that although most couples did not marry at an early age, there were still a small number who married at an early age. Marriage at an early age is a serious problem because it can have an impact from various aspects such as the impact on health, the impact on psychology, and the impact on socio-economics. The impact of early marriage also occurs in the community such as social problems, gender inequality, causing sustainable poverty status, increased illiteracy, and disconnection from poor health education, and can deprive the wider community of productivity both in the short and long term<sup>9</sup>.

The results of research on knowledge show that there are still respondents who do not know that women who marry at a young age tend to experience bleeding due to immature reproductive health, do not know the

age that many pregnancy complications at the age of  $< 20$  years and  $> 35$  years and early marriage can have a health impact on the baby. Women's knowledge indirectly influences the implementation of early marriage<sup>10</sup>. Early marriage is an underage marriage whose preparation target has not been maximized - physical, mental, and material preparation. Because of this, early marriage can be said to be a rushed marriage, because everything has not been carefully prepared, in other words, this marriage decision is due to a lack of knowledge about the risks that can be experienced if marriage is carried out at an early age.

The results of the study found that couples who married at an early age almost all their last education at the first school, and then they dropped out of school because they had to get married. Low levels of education and knowledge among children can cause a tendency to marry at an early age<sup>11</sup>. This is in line with research by Hermambang et al, (2021) showing that women with a junior high school education tend to marry early by 10.561 times compared to women with at least a high school education<sup>12</sup>. Meanwhile, women with primary school education tend to marry early by 50.105 times compared to women with at least high school education. Women who have never attended school tend to marry early by 94.418 times compared to women who have at least a high school education<sup>12</sup>.

Income level is related to the amount of income a person earns<sup>13</sup>. The results of the research conducted by the researcher found that most family incomes were  $\geq$  IDR 4,000,000, but there were also those whose income was IDR 4,000,000 a month. Economic problems in the family often cause parents to marry off their children to people who are considered more capable, because parents are no longer able to pay for their living and school needs, thus making children make the decision to marry at an early age on the grounds of reducing the family's economic burden<sup>14</sup>. Economic conditions are one of the factors related to early marriage, in addition to knowledge, education, environment, culture, and mass media<sup>10</sup>.

### **The relationship between knowledge, education level, economic status and early marriage in couples who marry at an early age in Sindangheula Village, Serang Regency, 2023**

The results of the research based on Table 2 show that out of a total of 33 (100%) respondents with low education, most of them did not marry at an early age, namely 20 respondents (60.6%). Meanwhile, out of a total of 46 (100%) respondents whose education is high, almost all of them did not marry at an early age, namely 43 respondents (93.5%). The results of statistical tests found there was a relationship between education level and early marriage. The results of other statistical tests obtained an OR value of 9.317, meaning that the low education group has a 9.317 times risk of early marriage compared to the high education respondent group.

The results of research based on Table 2 also found that of the 23 (100%) respondents whose economic status was poor, almost most did not marry at an early age, namely 13 respondents (56.5%). Meanwhile, out of a total of 56 (100%) respondents whose economic status was good, almost all did not marry at an early age, namely 50 respondents (89.3%). The results of statistical tests found there was a relationship between economic status and early marriage in Sindangheula Village. The results of other statistical tests obtained an OR value of 6.410, meaning that the economic status group has a risk of 6.410 times performing early marriage compared to the good economic status respondent group.

The results of this study are in accordance with Supriati (2018) research, it is known that there is a significant relationship between knowledge and early marriage, obtained a value of  $P = 0.005 (<0.05)$ , with an odd ratio value of 0.097, meaning that adolescents with poor knowledge have a 0.097 times chance of accepting early marriage<sup>15</sup>. This can be interpreted that the higher the knowledge, the lower the respondent's attitude towards early marriage and vice versa<sup>15</sup>.

Another study from Arikhman, et al (2019) found a p-value = 0.014, indicating a significant relationship between knowledge and early marriage<sup>6</sup>. According to researchers, this is due to low knowledge about the various consequences of early marriage. Such as not knowing that marrying at a young age tends to experience bleeding due to immature

reproductive health, experiencing pregnancy complications, not knowing that marrying at an early age can lead to problems of domestic violence, divorce, and early marriage can have health effects on the baby they are carrying<sup>6</sup>.

According to Susanti and Sari (2018), a low level of education leads to low knowledge of parents, children, and the community about the impact of early marriage<sup>16</sup>. The lower the level of education of adolescents, the more often marriage occurs at an early age. The role of education level is closely related to the understanding of family. In other words, education is the root of all problems in individuals, because from education individuals will gain knowledge to determine their attitude in making decisions. Including making decisions about whether they are ready to marry and become mothers at a very early age<sup>16</sup>.

This is in line with research conducted by Vidalia and Azinar (2022) in this study which shows that there is a significant relationship between education level and early marriage in Sukadana District ( $p=0.004$ ). In this study, respondents who had a low level of education had a 2.648 times greater risk of early marriage compared to respondents who had a high level of knowledge<sup>7</sup>.

The results of this study are also in line with Nasution (2020) The results of Chi Square analysis show that the p value is 0.037 ( $p < 0.05$ ), meaning that  $H_a$  is accepted, and  $H_0$  is rejected<sup>17</sup>. These results prove that there is a significant relationship between respondent education and Early Marriage in Janjimaui Muaratais III Village, Angkola muaratais District in 2019. A high level of education will provide mature understanding to individuals to choose and decide on something. A high level of education makes a lot of learning from the surrounding environment and the media so that it can change attitudes and views according to what he understands<sup>17</sup>.

This is in line with research conducted by Vidalia and Azinar (2022) in this study showing that there is a significant relationship between family income and early marriage with ( $p$  value = 0.000). While the OR value = 6.920, then adolescents with low family income 6.920 times perform early marriage compared to high family income. Economic factors are the main drivers that can drive many sectors in humans<sup>7</sup>.

The results of this study are also in line with the results of Nasution's research that most parents have a low income as many as 33 people (82.5%) and high income only 7 people (17.5%).<sup>9</sup> The results of statistical tests show that there is a significant relationship between parental income and early marriage with a p value = 0.037 ( $p < 0.05$ )<sup>17</sup>.

The results of research by Wulandari & Laksono (2020) with the title of the relationship between Economic Status and Early Marriage in women in rural Indonesia found that the poorest women had a higher probability of 2.23 times experiencing early marriage than the richest women. Poor women have a 1.68 times higher chance of experiencing early marriage than the richest women<sup>18</sup>.

According to the researcher's assumption, parents who marry off their children at a young age assume that by marrying off their children, the family's economic burden will be reduced. This factor is related to the low economic status of the family. The assumption is that if a young woman is married, her responsibilities will be transferred to her husband. Even parents who marry off their children at an early age also hope that if their children are married, they will be able to help improve their parents' lives.

### **Final Results of Logistic Regression of Early Marriage Incidence in Sindangheula Village, Serang Regency in 2023**

Based on Table 3, the results of the multivariate analysis show that all factors related to early marriage yielded  $R^2 = .154$ , adjusted  $R^2 = .120$ ,  $F = 4.540$ , and  $p\text{-value} < 0.05$ . The research results also revealed a positive  $\beta$  value (0.263), indicating a positive relationship between education level and the likelihood of early marriage. This means that the higher someone's level of education, the higher the likelihood of them not marrying at an early age. The  $p\text{-value}$  of 0.018 indicates that the relationship between education level and early marriage is statistically significant because it is smaller than the common significance level ( $p\text{-value} < 0.05$ ).

This result shows the importance of education level in influencing one's marriage decision. With a positive  $\beta$  value and strong statistical significance, it can be concluded that individuals with higher levels of education

tend to have a lower likelihood of experiencing early marriage. This could be due to a variety of factors, including an awareness of a wider range of life choices, a focus on career or personal development, or a postponement of the marriage decision until feeling more financially or emotionally prepared. This emphasizes the importance of education in providing individuals with the opportunity and knowledge to make better decisions in their lives.

The limitations of this study are that it was only conducted in one village and specific region, thus generalizing its results to a broader population should be done cautiously, and other factors influencing early marriage, such as cultural and religious factors, could not be further discussed

## **CONCLUSION**

The research findings indicate that although the majority of couples do not marry at a young age, there is still a significant number who do, underscoring the importance of addressing this issue comprehensively. Factors such as low education levels, economic limitations, and inadequate knowledge contribute to the trend of early marriage. Couples often cite financial pressure and societal expectations as reasons for early marriage. Moreover, low levels of education and economic status correlate with a higher likelihood of early marriage, emphasizing the critical role of education in decision-making processes. This research emphasizes the need for targeted interventions to effectively address early marriage. By enhancing education and economic opportunities, communities can empower individuals to make informed decisions about marriage. Future research should focus on exploring the impact of specific interventions aimed at reducing the incidence of early marriage, particularly in vulnerable communities such as Sindangheula Village..

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### CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

We affirm our commitment to transparency regarding any potential biases or influences that may affect the research findings. The authors declare no conflicts of interest that could impact the objectivity or integrity of this study. We state that this research was conducted solely for academic purposes and to contribute to the understanding of early marriage dynamics in the specified community. No external funding or affiliations with organizations that could potentially influence the interpretation or dissemination of the results were involved in this study. We adhere to ethical principles and scientific rigor in the collection, analysis, and reporting of data to ensure the credibility and validity of our findings

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