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## CHANGES IN KNOWLEDGE OF EARLY MARRIAGE THROUGH PEER INFORMATION

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### ABSTRACT

**Background** : The Human Development Index (HDI) consists of three components, namely the education index, health index, and purchasing power. The number of early marriages in Lumajang Regency is still relatively high. Every year many young couples under the age of 17 apply for marriage dispensation certificates with the Religious Court. Data in 2021 Lumajang Regency was ranked second as the city with the most cases of child marriage in East Java. The purpose of this study: analyze changes in knowledge about early marriage through the provision of information through peers.

**Method** : The type of research is quantitative using paired T-test and with pretest and post-test methods in one group (one-group pre-test and post-test design). A total of 210 respondents involved in this study came from grades 10 and 11 of SMAN 1 Tempeh Lumajang.

**Result** : Shows that the paired T-test results get p-value = 0.001 which means less than 0.05. There was a significant difference between the results of the level of knowledge about early marriage in the pretest and posttest data

**Conclusion** : The contribution/peer information that influences in the direction of good knowledge in early marriage, both directly related to the decision to marry at an early age and with behaviors that encourage marriage.

**Keywords** : Child Marriage; Information; Peers

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The biggest cause of low HDI in Lumajang is early marriage. The Human Development Index (HDI) consists of three components, namely the education index, the health index, and purchasing power. The number of early marriages in Lumajang Regency is still relatively high. Every year many young couples under the age of 17 apply for marriage dispensation certificates with the Religious Court. Data in 2021 Lumajang Regency was ranked second as the city with the most cases of early marriage in East Java. According to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) (2018), Early marriage is a marriage that officially or unofficially occurs to a person before the age of 18. Early marriage is a frequent problem in both urban and rural areas (Estranda et al., 2021). Early marriage is a marriage performed by a person under the age specified in Marriage Law No. 1 of 1974, which states that marriage is allowed only if the man is 19 (nineteen) years old and the woman is 16 (sixteen) years old (Ira Mutiara Dewi, 2020). Early marriage means the marriage of underage teenagers, as Law No. 16 of 2006 stipulates that the upper age limit for early marriage is 19 years for both men and women (Pradana et al., 2022).

The factors that can influence the realization of early marriage are little knowledge about the risks of early marriage. Low levels of knowledge encourage early marriage. This is because adolescents lack insight, understanding, and mature intelligence, as well as the knowledge needed in health issues related to the impact of early marriage. In addition to knowledge, cultures that support early marriage, such as arranged marriages, and cultures that believe that early women should marry immediately if married late

they become spinsters and have problems. Another factor is the economy. A low economy is one of the reasons someone chooses to do early marriage. According to the findings, the rate of early marriage is very high for several reasons. First, adolescents with less education are 2.3 times more likely to marry early than women with higher education. Second, teens in negative environments were 2.1 times more likely to marry early than women in positive environments. Third, low-educated adolescents are 5.4 times more likely to marry early than highly-educated women. Fourth, adolescents whose parents are not working are 7.4 times more likely to marry early than young women whose parents work (Soeleman & Elindawati, 2018).

Early marriage can be at risk of increased school dropout, poverty, reproductive health risks for women, anemic and hypertensive mothers, abortion, sexual violence, increased maternal and infant mortality, and low birth weight babies (BBLR), mothers with bleeding during childbirth, mental disorders, domestic violence that can lead to divorce, and increase the risk of contracting HIV and other infectious diseases (Widyastuti & Azinar, 2021).

### *Research Objectives*

Therefore, this study aims to analyze changes in knowledge about early marriage by providing peer information with the hope that early marriage in Lumajang, where the number of early marriages is still number 2 in East Java, can be reduced to none, as well as increase the insight and knowledge of adolescents about the risks of early marriage.

## 2. METHODS

The quantitative research method used in this study is to use paired T-tests with pretest and post-test methods (one-group pre-test and post-test design) which is a study procedure used to compare the average of two variables in one group. This research was conducted in May 2023 with the population in this study being all grade 10 and 11 students who are at SMAN 1 Tempeh, Lumajang Regency. The total number of respondents involved in this study was 210 respondents (total population). In this study, respondents were given pre-tests and post-tests,

previously there was information provided to several facilitators totaling 60 early from representatives of each class, PMI members, and student council members at SMAN 1 Tempeh to provide understanding. and knowledge to grade 10 and 11 students related to early marriage, then there was a follow-up from the researcher after one week of giving information. This research has been declared to have passed the health research feasibility test of the Health Research Ethics Commission (KEPK) of the Faculty of Nursing, University of Jember with number: 217/UN25.1.14/KEPK/2023.

## 3. RESULTS

The characteristics of respondents involved in this study were 210

respondents, mostly aged 16-17 years, women, and grade 10 listed in Table 1.

Table 1. The Characteristics Of Respondents

Characteristics		N	Percentage (%)
Age	16- 17	124	59
	17-18	86	41
Gender	Laki -laki	97	46
	Perempuan	113	53,8
Class	10	124	59
	11	86	41

Data processed June 2023

The results of the comparison of pre-test questionnaire scores averaged 45

and increased in the respondents' post-test average to 87 in Table 2.

Table 2. Respondent Questionnaire Results

Pre Test Scores	Respondent Total	Post Test Scores	Respondent Total
15	5	45	1
20	5	50	1
25	20	55	2
30	5	60	2
35	10	65	2
40	20	70	1
45	35	75	1
55	50	80	40
60	20	85	40
65	20	90	40
70	10	95	80

Data processed June 2023

The results of the comparison of pre-test and post-test values in respondents were carried out through

paired T-test and linear regression using IBM SPSS and obtained the results as listed in Figure 1.

Paired Differences

T

Df

Significance

		Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference		Sig (2 tailed)
					Lower	Upper	
Pair 1	pre test - pos test	-9.69048	24.60257	1.69774	-13.03736	-6.34359	-5.708 209 <,001

Figure 1. T Test Result

#### 4. DISCUSSION

Showed that out of a total of 210 respondents, most were aged 16-17 years, women, grade 10. The target respondents are in grades 10 and 11 and follow the evaluation, filling out the post-test questionnaire given by the researcher. According to (Susmiarsih et al., 2019) The tendency towards information related to early marriage is mostly female students are more concerned about the risks of early marriage itself. In the scope of school, they still have restrictions in dealing with the opposite sex. According to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) (2018), early marriage is a marriage that officially or unofficially occurs in a person before the age of 18. Early marriage is a frequent problem in both urban and rural areas (Estranda et al., 2021). Early marriage is a marriage performed by a person under the age specified in Marriage Law No. 1 of 1974, which states that marriage is allowed only if the man is 19 (nineteen) years old and the woman is 16 (sixteen) years old (Ira Mutiara Dewi, 2020). Early marriage means the marriage of underage teenagers, as Law No. 16 of 2006 stipulates that the upper age limit for early marriage is 19 years for both men and women (Pradana et al., 2022).

The success of providing information to respondents can be measured using pre-test and post-test questionnaires. Measurements were made by respondents before and after the assistance and delivery of information related to early marriage and how many risks. The results of the comparison of respondents' pre-test and post-test questionnaire scores are in Table 2.

Measurement of grades carried out from before students get information and

after students get information, and students understand the message conveyed through the information there is a comparison. The average score obtained by students is quite satisfactory and only a small percentage of students still do not understand the information about early marriage and its risks. The average pre-test result was 45 to 87 in the post-test. First, adolescents with less education are 2.3 times more likely to marry early than women with higher education. Second, teens in negative environments were 2.1 times more likely to marry early than women in positive environments. Third, low-educated adolescents are 5.4 times more likely to marry early than highly-educated women. Fourth, adolescents whose parents are not working are 7.4 times more likely to marry early than young women whose parents work (Soeleman & Elindawati, 2018).

Therefore, with the information provided by peers, it turns out to be more effective. This is in line with (Loviana & Wafiani, 2022) that peers become a reference group in developing adolescent behavior. The peer environment certainly has a role for teenagers everywhere, including at school. The environment of friends at school also has its own role for students at the school. Role is the concept of what a person should do, encompasses the behavioral demands of society on a person, and becomes an individual behavior that is important to the social structure of society. A role is a pattern of behavior that society expects from people occupying a certain status. Roles will determine what an individual does for society, as well as what opportunities society gives to that individual. Roles are

very important because they can regulate one's behavior, and cause one to be able to predict the deeds of others to a certain extent so that one can adapt one's own behavior to the behavior of people in one's group.

The paired T-test results are obtained  $p\text{-value} = 0.001$  which means less than 0.05. Based on these results, it can be concluded in decision-making that there is a significant difference between the results of the level of knowledge about early marriage in the pretest and posttest data. The provision of information from peers carried out at SMAN 1 Tempeh to grade 10 and 11 students from facilitators influenced information and knowledge about early marriage.

These results follow the results of previous research which showed that the provision of information through an approach to the community and the existence of a Group Discussion Forum (FGD) applied in the Ranupani Village community, with counseling and providing information the community knows, and understands the impact of early marriage and how to prevent it (Wahyuningsih et al., 2021, 2022).

The results of the test conducted statistically using paired t-tests on SMAN 1 Tempeh students increased their knowledge in the post-test 89% of students were well informed after being given intervention by peers. Peer groups are several friends who provide comfort for their friends, someone feels comfortable if they can tell stories with their peers, ranging from personal problems, and experiences, to discussing about career choices after graduation (Kurniawan & Ajat, 2017). Peers often influence individuals, so they feel pressure to behave according to their peers. Sometimes the social pressure of peer groups is to equalize tastes (Isnaini & Sari, 2019). The contribution of peers in adolescent marriage is both directly related to adolescent girls' decisions to marry during

adolescence and to behaviors that encourage marriage (Hamidiyanti, 2021).

Cases of early marriage occur in many parts of the world with various backgrounds. It has come to the attention of the international community given the risks arising from forced marriage, sexual relations at an early age, pregnancy at a young age, and sexually transmitted disease infections (Natalia et al., 2021). Poverty is not the only important factor to play in early marriage. Another thing to note is the risk of complications that occur during pregnancy and during childbirth at a young age, thus playing a role in increasing maternal and infant mortality. In addition, marriage at an early age can also cause personality development disorders and put earlyborns at risk of violence and neglect. The issue of early marriage is a failure in the protection of children's rights (Yuspa & Tukiman, 2017). This is also stated in the book issued by ADB Performance (Kinerja ADB, 2019) as a guide that can be used to provide correct information to teenagers. There are 4 core topics there, namely adolescent health, early marriage, prevention, and recommended actions, and being a facilitator for peers.

## 5. CONCLUSION

This study proves the influence in providing information from peers to students of SMAN 1 Tempeh. The contribution/peer information that influences in the change towards good knowledge about early marriage, both directly related to the decision to marry at an early age and with behaviors that encourage marriage. With the results of this study, this activity can be continued with periodic evaluation of the implementation of providing peer information for adolescents. The follow-up implementation in collaboration with the Tempeh Health Center will be carried out in all high schools in the Tempeh Health Center work area by holders of the Adolescent Health program and



throughout the Lumajang Regency. The hope is that it can help reduce until there is no more early marriage.

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