

Violence Against Young Married Women: The Impact of Child Marriage on Subjective Well-Being in Indonesia

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Abstract—*The purpose of this paper is to determine the effect of child marriage on subjective well-being. Subjective well-being in this case includes the impact of domestic violence. The study uses descriptive analysis and inferential analysis with binary logistic regression analysis. Women aged from 20-24 were used as the independent variable and domestic violence was used as the dependent variable. This study shows that child marriage has a significant effect on the levels of domestic violence. The Government should pay more attention to its program designed to delay marriage in an effort to reduce the prevalence of child marriage.*

Keywords—*child marriage, subjective well-being, violence, female empowerment*

I. INTRODUCTION

The fifth goal of SDG is to achieve gender equality and empower women. More specifically, SDG 5 on target 5.3 eliminates all harmful practices such as child, early and forced marriage, and female genital mutilation. Across the world, over the past 30 years the prevalence of child marriage decreased from 33 per cent to 26 per cent by [1]. Decreased prevalence of child marriage get walk slowly [2]. More than 700 million women across the world were married under the age of 18 [1].

Child marriages are common in South Asia and Africa. The prevalence of child marriage in India is 58 per cent and in Nigeria it is 77per cent [1]. According to BPS [3], 23 per cent of marriages in Indonesia in 2015 fell into this category, a small drop of one percent from the 2013 figure of 24 per cent.

According to UNICEF [1], child marriage is rare among wealthy families but is rife among poorer ones. Worldwide, women and girls with better economic conditions tend to marry later.

The impact of child marriage is extensive and almost universally negative for women. Parsons et al. [4] finds a direct link between the impact of child marriage on participation and decision-making, education, employment, violence and health. Kes, John, Murithi, Steinhaus, & Petroni, [5] categorizes five distinct detrimental effects arising from child marriage:

- Early childbirth
- Fertility and population growth

- Health, nutrition and violence
- Education, employment and wages
- Other impacts such as on decision-making and land ownership

Jensen & Thornton [6] argue that child marriage has negative effects on a woman's well-being. Such well-being includes a sense of autonomy and increased risk of being subjected to violence by their husband. The prevalence of physical and or sexual violence committed by spouses and experienced by women aged 15-64 years who / ever / is married at 18.3 per cent. Physical violence is the most common type of violence committed by a spouse [7]. Research conducted in Bangladesh [8] shows that married women of child age are more vulnerable to experiencing physical violence by husbands than married women of adolescence.

Research on the impact of child marriage has focused more on the impact on health and educational attainment. It is still rare to discuss the impact on well-being, especially subjective well-being. Therefore, this study aims to determine the impact of child marriage on subjective well-being, particularly female well-being. Subjective well-being in this regard is based on the prevalence of domestic violence. The results of this study should encourage the government to adopt policies designed to delay the age of marriage.

The method used in this research is the binary logistic regression method with the dependent variable being domestic violence and child marriage as the independent variable. The control variable is the social demographic condition of women.

consists of several parts. The next section discusses the literature review from previous research and from theory. It then details research methodology. Section 4 details the results of this study. Section 5 discusses the findings and, finally, Section 6 contains the conclusions.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

The literature on child marriage research comes from empirical studies in developing countries as child marriage is generally more common in these places. The literature on subjective well-being will also be discussed in this section.

A. Previous Empirical Studies

1) Determinant of Child Marriage

Research on child marriage generally examines the determinants of child marriage and its impact. Natanael MJ, Dawn MR [9] examine the determinants of child marriage in Indonesia and conclude that high per capita income, media exposure through the Internet, adequate per capita floor space, the level of education acquired by the head of the household, the number of children in high school and higher education attainment all tend to lower the rate of child marriage. In contrast, Internet access via mobile phone, the age of head of household and the number of children in the elementary school families are positively correlated with child marriage. [10] examined the determinants of childhood marriage in Vietnam and found that education, residence, wealth, age, region and ethnicity were significantly related to this phenomenon.

2) Impact of Child Marriage

Jensen & Thornton [6] suggest that early marriage may affect women negatively in many ways e.g. early termination of education and the onset of childbearing as well as female status and position within the household. Parsons et al. [4] mention the economic impact of child marriage on participation and decision-making, education levels, employment prospects, propensity to suffer domestic violence and poor health.

Kes, John, Murithi, Steinhaus, & Petroni [5] mention that the economic impact of child marriage is divided into five parts, (1) the impact on early childbirth, (2) the impact on fertility and population growth, (3) the impacts on health, nutrition and violence, (4) impacts on education, employment and wages, (5) the other impacts are decision making and land ownership.

3) Child Marriage and Well-Being

Abdullah, Shahnaz, Qureshi, Halima, Quayes [11] examine the impact of marriage on well-being in Bangladesh. The study finds that child marriage; the age difference between husband and wife; and poverty all contribute to increased incidence of domestic violence against women. In addition, the research concludes that child marriage not only increases domestic violence but also disempowers women. Research by Jensen & Thornton [6] in four countries - Benin, Colombia, India and Turkey - shows that child marriage is related to the status and well-being of women. The four countries were selected based on their measurement of female well-being in the Demographic and Health Survey.

Nasrullah et al., [8] and Raj, Saggurti, Lawrence, Balaiah, & Silverman [12] examined the effect of child marriage on husband abuse and found that women who married s children are more vulnerable to experiencing violent behavior by their husbands. Mutiarawana [13] mentions that domestic violence affects the subjective well-being of the family. In addition, women's empowerment is also affected by domestic violence [14].

There are several studies on the phenomenon of child marriage in Indonesia. Natanael MJ, Dawn MR [9] examine the prevalence of child marriage and child-marriage determinants in Indonesia using Susenas data in 2010. Junaedi & Sutiawan [15] examine the impact of marriage on reproductive health outcomes using 2007 IDHS data.

Kartikawati [16] also examines the impact of child marriage in Indonesia and concludes that it has negative consequences for the economy, society as a whole (including the propensity for domestic violence), health (reproductive health, sexual health, and child health) and it also has psychological impacts. There is little research on the impact of marriage on subjective well-being.

Addai, Opoku-Agyeman, & Amanfu [17] examine the relationship between marriage and subjective well-being in Ghana. The research uses a variety of control variables:

- Economic factors (income, employment status, social class)
- Health factors
- Geographical factors, i.e. residence
- Cultural factors (ethnicity and religion)
- Social capital factors
- and Demographic factors (age, gender and education)

B. Theory of Marriage and Subjective Well-Being

1) Theory of a Girl's Transition to Marriage

Laughlin & Lichter [18] detail the basic catalysts for the transition of girls into marriage. Their research is based on three themes: economic independence theory; the local marriage market; and cultural norms regarding suitable marriage age.

The theory of economic independence shows that increased education and income among women will reduce their dependence on marriage to gain economic support. They will also postpone marriage if they have great economic independence. The second theory deals with the influence of the local marriage market - the availability of a possible partner affects marriage rates and culture. Places with a greater availability of unmarried men, especially well-educated men, tend to encourage younger women to marry. Finally, the cultural explanation of marriage shows that family background, attitudes to the roles of women, and beliefs about marriage, all affect a woman's decision to marry.

2) Theory of Subjective Well-Being

C. Theory of Subjective Well-Being

According to Diener, Ed; Lucas, Richard; Oishi, [19], subjective well-being consists of three aspects:

- Life satisfaction
- Positive affects
- Negative affects

Satisfaction with life is considered the ideal state and occurs when living conditions are good and a person feels satisfied with their life [20]. Positive effects can be excitement, affection and pride. Negative effects can be separated into emotions and moods such as shame, guilt, anger, sadness and anxiety [21]. Abdullah, Shahnaz, Qureshi, Halima, Quayes [11] report that child marriage increases levels of domestic violence. Women who marry in childhood are more vulnerable to becoming victims of domestic

violence. Domestic violence results in deep sadness for women. Similarly, according to Abdullah, et al. [11], women who marry as children are more likely to be less empowered. It is interesting to examine childhood marriage with the topic of subjective well-being where domestic violence is prevalent.

III. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

A. Overview

This study aims to determine the effect of child marriage on subjective well-being. It uses SPHPN 2016 data and descriptive analysis and inferential analysis with binary logistic regression analysis as its analytic tools.

B. Research Method

Research is conducted using quantitative techniques, with data sourced from The National Women Experience Survey (SPHPN) 2016. This data set was selected because the information contained in the survey is both relatively complete and up to date. The survey was a joint effort between The Central Bureau of Statistics and The Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection. SPHPN 2016 is the first national survey to document violence experienced by women in Indonesia. It sampled 9,000 households, selecting one woman aged 15-64 years old from each as the respondent [7].

The unit of analysis in this study refers to child marriage. For the definition of child marriage, references from UNICEF are used in this study, i.e child marriage is defined as marriage by a man or woman under the age of 18 years. This study further restricted its sampling to a single gender in this category: women. It also limited it by age at the time of marriage.

UNICEF used two standard age groups in child marriage measurements: 15-19 years old and 20-24 years old. In this study used the age group of 20-24 years old [2, 9]. The number of samples in this study were 415 married women aged 20-24 years.

Domestic violence is the dependent variable in this study. It has a negative impact on subjective well-being. For the variable of behavior of domestic violence, there are six questions of behavior of domestic violence which then formed dummy variable with 1 is at least 1 of the 6 categories experienced domestic violence and 0 is not experiencing domestic violence.

The main independent variable in this study is the age at which women aged 20-24 were married. Since this variable is absent from the survey, it is approximated in this study by the variable of the first year of marriage validation minus the year of birth so as to obtain age at the time of marriage. This marriage age is divided into two categories - less than 18 years of age (child marriage) and more than or equal to 18 years of age. The marriage age in the first group is suspected to be endogenous, so it needs to be adjusted first.

The control variables in this research are:

- Female empowerment
- Work status
- Existence of a live birth child
- Age difference with partner

For female empowerment variables that obtained from the 703 and 704 details in the questionnaire. The question asked whether:

The husband prevented the woman respondent from meeting her friends

He forbade family contacts

She had to to ask her husband's permission to seek treatment

The woman had ever been forbidden from working

The husband ever took a woman's income or savings without her consent.

The women respondents could answer either a simple Yes or No to all questions. Dummy variables are formed in this case i.e. 1, where women did not have autonomy in decision-making or they answered Yes to at least one of the questions. Conversely, the dummy variable 0 was employed if women had autonomy in decision making.

IV. RESULTS

A. Descriptive Analysis

This study aims to determine the effect of child marriage on subjective feelings of well-being, with particular reference to domestic violence. The results show that 27 percent of women in this study were married before the age of 18; that the mean age of first marriage was 19.03 years; that the mean age of couples was 28.05 years; that the mean years at school was 9.3; and that the mean difference between the age of couples was 5.65 years.

Marriage after 18 is no guarantor of female empowerment. Among women who were married at age 20-24, female empowerment is still lacking with 62.44 per cent of this cohort saying they were not empowered. Some 58.33 per cent of women married before they were 18 also said they were disempowered. However, 25 per cent of women who were married before 18 (child brides) experienced domestic violence compared with 13.99 per cent who married later.

TABLE I. RESULT OF DESCRIPTIVE ANALYSIS

Variable	Age at the first marriage ≥ 18 years	Age at the first marriage < 18 years
There are children at home	81,87per cent	8,33per cent
No children	18,13per cent	91,67per cent
Work	36,01per cent	41,67per cent
Doesn't Work	63,99per cent	58,33per cent
Women Empowerment : Yes	37,56per cent	41,67per cent
Women Empowerment : No	62,44per cent	58,33per cent
Domestic Violence : Yes	13,99per cent	25per cent
Domestic Violence : No	86,01per cent	75per cent

Source : SPHPN 2016 (processed)

B. Inferential Analysis

Inferential analysis is used to determine whether child marriage influences domestic violence rates. As already discussed, the child marriage age is endogenous, so it is important to use linear regression to investigate the influence of the years of schooling variables on the relevant group. This model as a whole is significant with a prob> F value of 0.000. Adjusted R Square in the model is 0.182, meaning that

the variation of independent variables used (years of schooling) can provide a plausible explanation of the 18.2 per cent variation of dependent variable (age when first married). While the remaining 81.8 per cent influenced by other variables are not included in this model.

$$\text{Model 1 : } UKP = 16,325 + 0,289educ \quad (3)$$

The next aspect to determine is the effect of marital age on domestic violence rates by using the binary logistic regression model. Firstly, all of the independent variables that make up the model were tested, obtaining a Chi Square value of 23.790 with 0.000 sig. This shows a statistically significant result with a 95 per cent confidence level, meaning that the independent variables in the model overall are statistically significant. This means the model is applicable.

In the test, statistic G (-2 log likelihood) is 317,585. This means the model is fit for purpose and can be used for further analysis. Other measurable sizes are Cox and Snell R2 and Nagelkerke R2 of 0.056 and 0.100, respectively. This shows 5.6 per cent of variation in the probability of domestic violence behavior can be explained by the independent variables used in the model, and a 10 per cent variation in behavior of domestic violence can be explained by the independent variables used in the model.

$$\ln\left(\frac{p}{1-p}\right) = -3,542 + 0,577UKP_{hat} + 1,192empowerment + 0,593work + 0,729children - 0,021GAP \quad (4)$$

The results show that the age of marriage significantly influences rates of domestic violence. Women aged 20-24 in Indonesia in 2016 who married before they were 18 years of age were 1.780 times more likely to be victims of domestic violence behavior than women who married after this age. Empowerment in women also significantly affects the prevalence of domestic violence. In 2016, women aged 20-24 in Indonesia who were not empowered were 3.293 times more likely to be victims of domestic violence compared to empowered women.

TABLE II. THE RESULT OF ESTIMATION LOGISTIC REGRESSION

Variable (1)	Coef B (2)	P-Value (3)	Exp(B) (4)
UKP_hat			
UKP<18 years	0.577	0.057	1.780
UKP≥18 years *	0.000		
Women Empowerment			
no	1.192	0.001	3.293
yes*	0.000		
Work Status			
Work	0.593	0.042	1.810
Doesn't work*	0.000		
Existence of children			
Yes	0.729	0.116	2.072
No*	0.000		
Age gap	-0.021	0.499	0.979

Source : SPHPN 2016 (processed)

Work status also has a significant impact on the prevalence of domestic violence. In 2016, women aged 20-24 in Indonesia who worked were 1.810 times more likely to be a victim of domestic violence compared to women who did not work. Women in the same cohort who had children were 2.072 times more likely to be victims of domestic violence compared to women without children. However, the existence of children is not significantly different to women who do not have children.

age difference between a woman and her husband, instances of domestic violence increased 0.979 times for every year of the age gap. But for the difference with the age of this husband does not have a significant difference to the behavior of domestic violence.

V. DISCUSSION

This study was successful in reaching conclusions on the effects that marital age has on the subjective well-being of women, particularly with reference to the issue of domestic violence. Analysis shows that child marriage significantly enhances susceptibility to domestic violence. It ultimately affects a woman's subjective well-being. The results of this study concur with Nasrullah, et al. [8] and Raj, et al. [12] i.e. women who married as children are more susceptible to domestic violence than women who married aged 18-plus.

Some 25 per cent of women aged 20-24 years old who married under 18 years of age experience domestic violence compared with 13.99 per cent for those who married after 18 years of age. This is similar to Raj's research, et al. [12] in India that found 35 per cent of women who were married before they were 18 were victims of domestic violence perpetrated by their husbands – greater than those who married over 18 years.

VI. CONCLUSION

The main finding of this study is that women who married when they were still children suffer more instances of domestic violence than those who marry later, which ultimately affects their subjective well-being. The study is limited in scope because of the data available, which could skew results. Also, some of the variables necessary to conduct this study are not included in the SPHPN 2016 survey set data, such as possible control variables for residence and income. This study was based on a cross-sectional snapshot data limited to a single year. However, the findings reinforce previous research that shows child marriage is particularly bad for women. Therefore, the government should re-activate the marriage delay program and increase education, especially for women. More education means less propensity to marry at a young age. Further research should use larger samples and panel data to confirm further the long-term impact on women who were child brides.

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