

The Effect of Peer Group and Religiosity on Early Marriage Motivation

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Abstract: *The motivation of early marriage is an encouragement arising from adolescents to tend and behave towards early marriage. Internal and external factors can increase marital motivation. The former includes peer attachment, and the later is related to religiosity. The purpose of this study is to determine the relationship between sticking the role of peers and religiosity with early marriage motivation in adolescents. The research subjects are students of MTs Syech Abdul Qodir Al Jaelani (SAQO) in the village of Rangkap Probolinggo regency consisting 59 teenagers. Data analysis uses the regression test. The results revealed that the role of peer group attachment and religiosity directly affects the motivation of early marriage. High and low attachment and religiosity directly influence the motivation of adolescents to get married early.*

Keywords: *peer group, religiosity, early marriage motivation*

Introduction

Early marriage is a violation of the basic human right because it causes physical, psychological and emotional trauma that may last for the rest of one's life. It is because after the wedding, there will be sexual activity followed by pregnancy and childbirth in a very young age, which will increase the risk of death of the mother and baby. Usually, early marriages occur because of tradition, culture and economic factors (Suresh Lal, 2013). Some other impacts of early marriage is the increased risk of sexual violent, HIV, maternal morbidity and mortality, depression, miscarriage, and stunting among children (Mehra et al., 2018).

Social norms are also among the causes of early marriage. The process of early marriage usually starts with initiation followed by negotiation and final decision. The initiation normally comes from the man and the final decision is made by the father of the woman. The decision should involve the daughter, families and communities to avoid early marriage (McDougal et al., 2018).

Nowadays, young people often spend most of their time with friends of the same age. They form a group of friends and even expand the circles. Therefore, it is important to strengthen their self identity, self esteem, and the feeling of social acceptance as young people tend to act according to the group behavior. Ding et al. (2018) found teenagers drinking liquor at a university in China were mostly influenced by their peers. Young people strive to be accepted by one or more peer group. In this case, peer grup refers to small group consisting of people who interact regularly and build self reputation and create self (Kiesner et al., 2002).

Having a good peer group is important for teenagers since they rely on this peer group to share their feelings. A study reveals that 60% share their feelings with friends of the same age, and 20% with their parents. Support and response from friends of the

same age is very important for them. However, the support can actually bring either positive or negative influence (Clasen, et al., 2018).

Previous study by Nurhandini (2018) involving 107 respondents showed 58.9% of students had a negative peer role and 57.9% had low motivation for early marriage. The results of the statistical test was 0.17 (independent and dependent variables had very weak relationship), which shows that teenagers who received bad influence from their peers tend to have high motivation for early marriage.

Religiosity is related to one's obedience to practice what he believes, apply good values and act accordingly to be closer to God that is presented in his ways of life. Religiosity can improve one's quality of life to eliminate negative effects, as well as physical and emotional stress (Mytko & Knight, 1999). In Islam, religiosity is a commitment or belief into the fundamentals of Islam by fulfilling God's rights and others by following Allah's commands and avoiding God's prohibition of avoiding disgraceful acts and worship accordingly (Abolghasem-Gorji et al., 2017).

On one hand, religious peer group tends to encourage early marriage. On the other hand, peer group with low level of religiosity tend to encourage free sex or pre marital sex. In this case, Puspitaningtyas (2018) found that there is a correlation between religiosity, peer conformity and free sex among teenagers.

Based on the explanation above, the researcher is interested in conducting a study on the influence of peer group and religiosity on early marriage motivation among teenage students in MTS Syech Abdul Qadir al Jaelani (SAQO) Rangkap's village in Kabupaten Probolinggo.

Effect of Peer group on Early Marriage Motivation

Teens are very vulnerable to the social influence around them, especially from their peer group. A study

by Robalino & Macy (2018) revealed that peers had the biggest influence on smoking habit among young people. However, another study shows there is a positive effect of peers that lower the levels of alcohol drinking among teenagers. Teenagers tend to be friends with other teens who have similar behaviour (Wang et al., 2017). Therefore, choice of friends greatly impacted teenagers' behavior, where the impact can be either positive or negative (Fitriani, 2016).

Religiosity and Early Marriage Motivation

Religiosity influence social interactions within social group by preventing behaviour that are harmful to health, such as alcohol and drugs and are also morally in society such as sex outside marriage (Francis et al., 2019). A study conducted by Andisti & Ritandiyono (2008) found that there was a significant relationship between religiosity and free sex behaviour, the higher religiosity, the lower the free sex behavior, and vice versa.

Someone who has a low level religiosity cannot live the religion well so someone will easily violate his religious belief, (e.g. by doing premarital sex). In contrast, someone with a high level of religiosity will view religion as his life goal so he will try to internalize his religious teaching in his daily life. Someone who has high religiosity keep themselves from behaviour that is not in accordance with the teaching of their religion, including premarital sex (Puspitaningtyas, 2018).

Method

The research design uses causality design aiming to measure the effect of certain changes on existing norms and assumptions (Sugiyono, 2008). The variables related in this study were religiosity (X1), peer group attachment (X2), and early marriage motivation (Y) towards VIII grade students at SAQO MTs in Rangkang Village, Probolinggo Regency. This research was conducted at Islamic junior high school Syech Abdul Qadir Al-Jailani (MTs SAQA) located in Rangkang Village, Probolinggo Regency on 4 January 2019. The samples of this study were 59 students, selected using purposive sampling method. The inclusion criteria taken were students of class VIII at Islamic junior high school Syech Abdul Qadir Al-Jailani (MTs SAQA).

The data collection uses a scale, namely the peer group attachment scale from the RSQ (relationship scale questionnaire) of Griffin and Bartholomew adopted by Mamluatul Hasanah (2016) and the scale of religiosity adopted from the Fetzer scale (2003), namely daily spiritual experience, value and believe.

Result

The Effect of Peer group's Attachment on Early Marriage Motivation

From the results of the second hypothesis testing, it can be concluded that there is a positive direct effect of religiosity on early marriage motivation, with a

correlation coefficient of $0.023 (< 0.05)$. It means that peer group has direct positive effect on early marriage motivation.

The effect of peer group attachment on early marriage motivation in religion moderation

From the results of testing the third hypothesis it can be concluded that there is a positive correlation and the direct effect of attachment and religiosity on early marriage motivation, with a correlation coefficient of $0.013 (> 0.05)$. It means that religiosity moderates the influence of peer group on early marriage motivation.

Discussion

The results of this study provide very important information about the effect of peer groups on the motivation of early marriage mediated by religiosity. This is supported by the results of previous research (Nurhandini, 2018). The results showed that the negative role of peers did not directly increase motivation to get married early. Teenagers who are 16 years really need peers. Teenagers are happy to be surrounded by friends. Teenagers aged 15 to 17 years are young adults. At this time, they are very close and open to their peers, so they tend to trust and listen more to friends' suggestion.

J.W Santrock in Knowledge (n.d.) said that peer group is children or teenagers of approximately the same age or maturity level who interact with peers of the same age and have a unique role in their culture and habits. This peer group arises because every member has the same needs and desires. Teenagers move into peer groups (peer groups) during the period of their personality development.

Handayani (Surakarta, n.d.) revealed that there is an influence between religiosity and readiness to face marriage. A high level of religiosity has a positive influence on marriage preparation. In this case, students believe that marriage is not a social contract but must be based on faith and piety. Getting married is aimed at worshipping Allah SWT.

The results of this study indicate that there is a direct influence of peer group attachment and religiosity on early marriage motivation in adolescents. Individuals begin to rely on peer groups during adolescence. Deviant behavior in adolescents relates to peers because adolescents who engage in deviant behavior seek others who do the same behavior. The conflictual relationships among peers, including rejection from conventional peer groups, have been identified as motivators for entering deviant peer groups. Peer group relationships provide context not only for friendship and not entirely positive relationships, but also for the development of negative outcomes, such as poor academic adjustment, delinquency, aggression, depression, or social anxiety. This study reveals that there is an influence of peer group attachment on early marriage motivation with moderate religiosity.

Conclusion

Based on the results of the study, it can be concluded that there is a direct influence on peer group attachment (peers) with religiosity on the early marriage motivation in teenage students of SMK SAQO in Rangkang Village, Probolinggo Regency.

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