



The Factor of Household Head's Education in Child Marriage in Southeast Sulawesi

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Abstract. Child marriage is a serious issue that occurs in many countries, including Indonesia. Combating harmful child marriages is a target of the Indonesian government articulated in the SDGs 2030 and RPJMN 2020-2024. One of the provinces with a very high number of child marriages is Southeast Sulawesi Province. For 5 consecutive years (2017-2021), the rate of child marriages has consistently been higher than the national average. In fact, in 2018, it was ranked third in the country. The purpose of this study is to describe the relationship between the level of education of the head of household and the decision to marry underage girls. The data used is SUSENAS in March 2022. From the descriptive analysis, it was found that 49.00% of the heads of households who married their underage daughters had elementary school education or lower, 44.07% had secondary education, and 6.3% had tertiary education. This indicates that the majority of heads of households who marry their underage daughters have elementary school education or lower. This also shows that education can influence the decision of heads of households to engage in child marriage, where the higher the education level of the head of household, the lower the likelihood of child marriage.

Keywords: Child marriage, head of household, education

1 Introduction

Child marriage is a serious issue in many countries. The eradication of child marriage has become a target of the Indonesian government in SDGs 2030 and RPJMN 2020-2024 [1]. Child marriage refers to the marriage of a person before the age of 18, whether it is a male or female. This is defined in Law No. 1 of 1974, where marriage is the physical and spiritual bond between a man and a woman as husband and wife, with the aim of forming a happy and eternal family based on the Almighty. Meanwhile, in Law No. 23 of 2002, a child is defined as a person who is under 18 years old, including a child who is still in the womb.

The impact of child marriage is diverse. This is because this practice is one of the forms of violence against children. Children who are forced to marry or have to marry before the age of 18 due to certain conditions will have a greater vulnerability in terms of access to education, quality of health, potential for experiencing violence, and living in poverty [2]. In the study 'Child marriage and intimate partner violence: A comparative study of 34 countries', it was found that young girls who marry are more vulnerable to domestic violence. 26% of them who married before the age of 18 reported physical and sexual violence, while only 18% of those who married as adults reported physical and sexual violence.

Child marriage is a serious issue that occurs in many countries. A study by Minh Cong Nguyen and Quentin Wodon in Africa found that child marriage has a negative impact on the education and literacy of girls. Young girls who are married tend to have a smaller chance of obtaining adequate education and literacy because they are often required to drop out of school and take on the role of wife and homemaker. Therefore, child marriage can hinder the ability of girls to obtain decent jobs in the future, which can have an impact on poverty and family welfare [3].

A study conducted across eight provinces in Indonesia on the impact of child marriage shows that it also has a negative impact on family welfare, maternal and child health, and economic development in Indonesia. The results of the study show that getting married at a young age increases the risk of being unprepared for childbirth and caring for a child, and if they undergo an abortion, they are likely to have an unsafe abortion that can endanger the safety of the baby and mother until death. Child marriage also has the potential for partner violence and if there is an unwanted pregnancy, there is a tendency to hide the pregnancy and ultimately not receive adequate prenatal care.

Indonesia is included in the list of the top 10 countries in the world with the highest incidence of child marriage. Meanwhile, Indonesia's position in the ASEAN area ranks second [4]. The trend of child marriage numbers from year to year can be seen in the following chart:

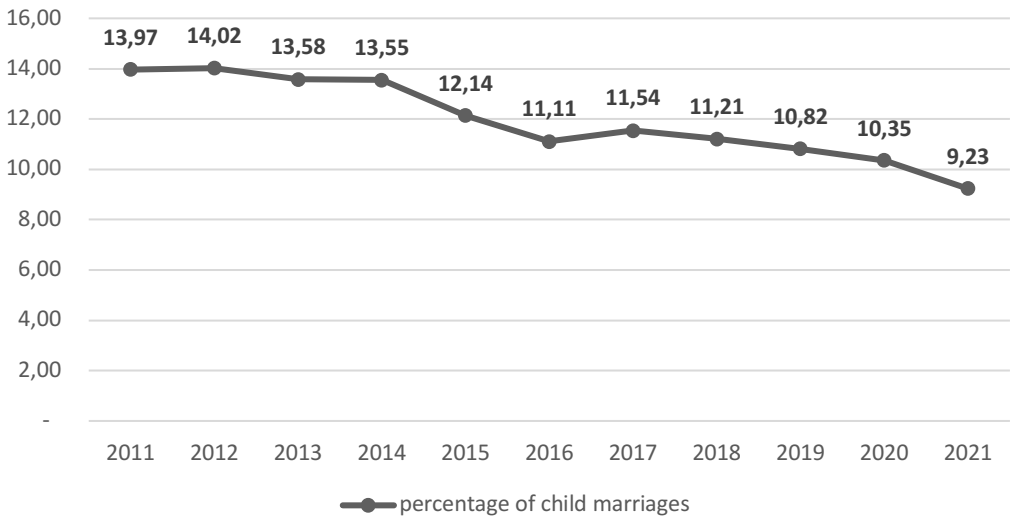


Fig. 1. Trend of the Proportion of 20-24 Year Old Children Who Got Married Before the Age of 18 in Indonesia from 2011-2021

Based on the chart above, the number of child marriages in Indonesia has fluctuated significantly and has shown a decline over the past 4 years with the highest decline from 10.35% in 2020 to 9.23% in 2021. However, compared to the RPJMN target from 2020-2024 of 8.74% in 2024, these figures are still far from the target. One province with a very high child marriage rate is Southeast Sulawesi Province. For 5 consecutive years (2017-2021), Southeast Sulawesi has always been above the national average. Even in 2018, it was in third place in Indonesia.

The government has implemented various programs to reduce the number of child marriages in Indonesia, one of which is by revising the age limit for marriage. In 2019, the government revised Law No. 1 of 1974 to Law No. 16 of 2019. The change was intended to raise the minimum age of marriage to 19 years for both women and men. However, there are still loopholes where the minimum age for marriage does not apply if they obtain dispensation from a court through a request from parents to marry their underage child (under 18 years old). This is where the role of parents or heads of households is very important because underage marriages will not be legal without the consent of the head of the household and without a request for dispensation from the head of the household to the court.

Based on the description above, this research aims to describe how the education level of a household head affects child marriages. This study refers to metadata indicators for

SDGs, aimed at aligning the concept of the research results with government targets. This research has two objectives: (1) to describe the characteristics of household heads who marry their daughters underage in Southeast Sulawesi Province; (2) to describe the relationship between the education level of household heads and the decision to marry their underage daughters and (3) to describe the influence of education level on the decision of household heads to marry off underage children (age <18 years old).

2 Method

This research is an explanatory study that aims to test the theories and findings of previous research that are related to the education level of household heads in child marriages. The subject of this research is the household heads who marry their underage daughters, as defined by the SDGs. The characteristic studied is the education level of household heads, according to the theory of Arroba (1998), which states that one of the factors that influence decision-making is education level. The locus of this study is Southeast Sulawesi Province.

This research uses secondary data in the form of raw data collected from the Central Statistics Agency (BPS) of Southeast Sulawesi Province. The raw data used in this research is from the National Socio-Economic Survey (SUSENAS) conducted by BPS in March 2022. The SUSENAS data is individual data containing household head characteristics, including their education level. SUSENAS is a special survey conducted by BPS to collect socio-economic data in Indonesia. SUSENAS aims to obtain estimated data on the socio-economic characteristics of households in Indonesia, including income, expenditure, education, and other aspects related to household socio-economic conditions.

The population used in the March 2022 SUSENAS is the census block population. The number of regular census blocks produced from the 2010 Population Census is around 720,000. The main sample framework used is 40 percent of the census block population chosen using the probability proportional to size (PPS) method. Sampling of 40% of the census blocks is considered sufficient to represent population characteristics. The second-stage sample frame is a list of households resulting from updates in each census block. The sample size of the March 2022 SUSENAS is 324,948 households scattered across all districts/cities in Indonesia. The sample is taken using stratification methods based on urban/rural classifications and household welfare categories [1]. The sample size of SUSENAS in Southeast Sulawesi is 9,170 households. In this research, the sample consists of household heads who marry their underage daughters in Southeast Sulawesi Province.

The analysis used in this study is descriptive analysis and inferential analysis. Descriptive analysis is used to describe the characteristics of households that marry their daughters at a young age (age <18 years) and to describe the percentage of households that marry daughters at a young age based on the gender and educational level of the head of the household. The inferential analysis consists of binary logistic regression to examine the influence of the educational level of the head of the household on the decision to marry

underage girls. The independent variable (x) is the educational level (elementary and below, junior high school, college) while the dependent variable (y) is the decision to marry underage girls, which is valued at 0 and 1.

3 Results

3.1 Characteristics of Household Heads Who Married their Daughters Under the Age of 18

Gender of Household Head

A harmonious family is a family that is able to carry out the roles of each family member well and support each other. The father plays the role of the household head responsible for the family. However, under certain circumstances, the role of household head can be transferred to the mother or even the eldest child.

The following table shows the percentage of household heads who married their daughters under the age of 18 based on gender.

Table 1. Percentage of household heads who married their daughters under the age of 18 based on gender in Southeast Sulawesi Province, 2022.

| Gender of household head | Percentage |
|--------------------------|------------|
| Male | 89 % |
| Female | 11 % |

The table above shows the percentage of gender of household heads who conducted underage marriage. The majority of household heads who conducted underage marriage in the Southeast Sulawesi province according to the March 2022 SUSENAS survey were male with a percentage of 89%, while the female percentage was only 11%. This fact relates to the theory of male and female household heads, in which males are seen as the primary leaders and decision-makers in the family. Therefore, the data shows that males tend to decide to conduct underage marriage as they dominate decision-making in the household. However, females can also take on the role as household heads when their husbands die, are unable to or are not present in their family.

The data shows that there are still many males who decide to conduct underage marriage. However, it should also be noted that other factors such as poverty, cultural norms, and lack of education also contribute to the occurrence of underage marriage in addition to the gender of the household head. It is important to intervene through an equal approach between males and females to achieve shared goals in addressing underage marriage.

Education of Household Head

Table 2. Percentage of household heads who marry their daughters under 18 years old according to education in Southeast Sulawesi Province, 2022

| Education of Household Head | Percentage |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Primary School and Below | 49% |
| Secondary School | 44% |
| Higher Education | 6,3% |

The available data shows the percentage of education levels among Household Heads who marry their daughters under the legal age. The data was taken from the March 2022 SUSENAS survey in Southeast Sulawesi Province. Based on the data, 49% of Household Heads who married their daughters under the legal age have primary school and below education, 44% have secondary school education, and 6,3% have higher education.

This data shows that the majority of households that marry underage girls have elementary or junior high school education. This indicates that education can influence the decision of households to marry underage girls, where the higher the education level of the household, the lower the likelihood of marrying underage girls.

Overall, this data indicates a correlation between education and underage marriage. Therefore, there needs to be cooperation between the government and the community to improve education in order to reduce the number of underage marriages.

Marriage of underage girls in Southeast Sulawesi Province is particularly interesting to discuss in relation to the education and understanding of the various ethnic groups in Southeast Sulawesi. Three important ethnic groups in Southeast Sulawesi are the Tolaki, Buton, and Muna ethnic groups. These three ethnic groups have different traditions and cultures when it comes to dealing with child marriages.

3.2 Analysis of the Influence of Education Level on Household Heads' Decision to Marry Their Underage Daughters (<18 years old)

This analysis uses binary logistic regression analysis with the model being the educational level mentioned earlier. The dependent and independent variables in this study were analyzed using IBM SPSS Statistics version 21 with the enter method. The goodness-of-fit test for the model was conducted using the Hosmer and Lemeshow Test. The null hypothesis (H0) of this test states that the formed model is a good fit and suitable for use. The estimated results from this binary logistic regression model show a test statistic value of 0.275 with a p-value of 0.965 (p-value greater than the alpha value or 0.05).

| Hosmer and Lemeshow Test | | | |
|---------------------------------|------------|----|------|
| Step | Chi-square | df | Sig. |
| 1 | .275 | 3 | .965 |

It means that the binary logistic regression **model is FIT** to be used for further analysis to see the influence of education level on the decision of parents to marry underage girls (age <18 years old).

| Model Summary | | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| Step | -2 Log likelihood | Cox & Snell R Square | Nagelkerke R Square |
| 1 | 701.142 ^a | .016 | .022 |

a. Estimation terminated at iteration number 5 because parameter estimates changed by less than 0.001

Nagelkerke R square 2.2% means that the independent variable (education level) has a capability of explaining only 2.2% of the decision of parents to marry underage girls (age <18 years old) (dependent variable), while the remaining percentage is explained by other variables that have not been included in the model. This is in line with the findings of the Plan Indonesia 2021 survey, which states that various factors influence child marriage in Indonesia, not just education, where education accounts for only 2.2%. These factors include social, health, economic, technological, and cultural factors [4].

Other factors can also influence such decisions, such as the level of poverty and a lack of knowledge about children's rights. Therefore, efforts need to be made to educate the public about children's rights and the importance of education in reducing the number of child marriages. To enhance awareness, the government and society can develop programs that support education and gender equality across all segments of society. Schools can also collaborate with families and communities to educate them about the importance of education and children's rights.

| Omnibus Tests of Model Coefficients | | | | |
|--|--------------|------------|----|------|
| | | Chi-square | df | Sig. |
| Step 1 | Step | 8.762 | 2 | .013 |
| | Block | 8.762 | 2 | .013 |
| | Model | 8.762 | 2 | .013 |

Sig. 0.013 < 0.05 means that the level of education of the household head has a significant influence on the decision to marry underage girls (age <18 years old).

| | | Variables in the Equation | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|---------------------------|------|--------|----|------|--------|
| | | B | S.E. | Wald | df | Sig. | Exp(B) |
| Step 1 ^a | Education | | | 6.435 | 2 | .040 | |
| | Education (1) | 1.333 | .547 | 5.937 | 1 | .015 | 3.792 |
| | Education (2) | 1.381 | .545 | 6.413 | 1 | .011 | 3.979 |
| | Constant | -2.079 | .530 | 15.374 | 1 | .000 | .125 |
| a. Variable (s) entered on step 1: Education of the household head | | | | | | | |

Partially, both primary school education level (sig. 0.011<0.05) and junior high school education level (sig. 0.015<0.05) of the household head have a significant influence on the decision of the household head to marry underage girls (age <18 years old). The Exp (B) value indicates that (1) households with an elementary school or lower education level are estimated to have a 3.979 times higher likelihood of marrying underage children compared to households with a college education level and (2) Households with a junior high school/high school education level are estimated to have a 3.792 times higher likelihood of marrying underage children compared to households with a college education level.

4 Conclusion and Recommendations

From the previous discussion, it can be concluded that child marriage in Southeast Sulawesi is still a complex issue and requires serious attention from the government. However, education plays an important role in changing society's views on the importance of children's rights and the importance of education in achieving their potential. Therefore, the government needs to increase the budget for education programs and prioritize areas with high rates of child marriage. In addition, an effective and inclusive campaign is needed to raise awareness among the public about this issue. Increased awareness and strict legal efforts are also needed to protect children's rights from child marriage. Furthermore, success in addressing this issue not only depends on the government but also requires the active support and participation of the community and various other parties to create positive social change.

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