



The Impact of Child Marriage on Household Welfare in South Sulawesi

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Abstract

This study aims to analyse the impact of child marriage on household welfare in South Sulawesi based on a literature review. The phenomenon of child marriage in the region is correlated with various welfare indicators, including poverty, education, and access to health services. Data from Susenas 2022 shows that more than 41 per cent of early-married households are poor. In addition, women who marry at an early age tend to have low levels of education, which negatively impacts their future employment and earning opportunities. The study also found that women who marry early often give birth under the age of 19, increasing the risk of health complications for both mother and child. Strong social and cultural factors in South Sulawesi contribute to the high rate of child marriage, despite legal efforts to lower the age of marriage. By understanding these factors, this research is expected to provide better insights in designing policies to improve household welfare in South Sulawesi. The research also highlights the importance of women's education and empowerment in efforts to reduce the practice of child marriage and improve community welfare.

Keywords: Child marriage, welfare, education, poverty

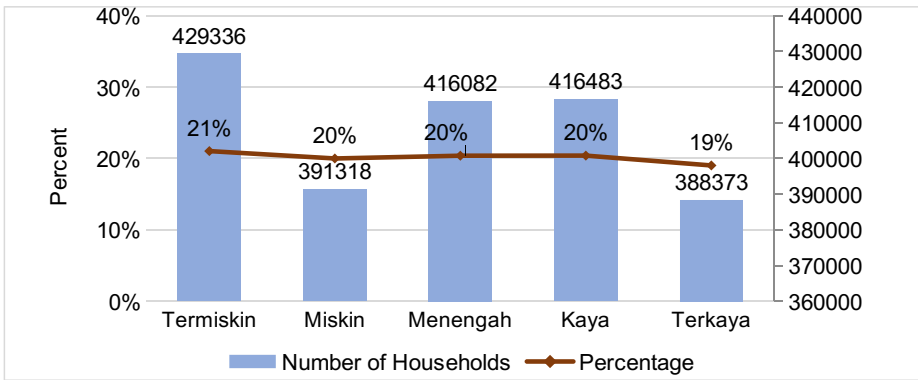
1. Introduction.

South Sulawesi is one of the provinces in Indonesia that has welfare problems that need attention. The existence of welfare problems in South Sulawesi is reflected in the poverty rate. According to BPS data in March 2022 the number of people below the poor poverty line reached 777.44 thousand people or around 8.63 per cent, an increase of 12 thousand people or around 0.10 per cent points from September 2021 and a decrease of 7.54 thousand people or around 0.15 per cent points against March 2021. Despite the decrease, the poverty rate is still quite high, which shows that there are still many families who are less prosperous in this area.

Household per capita expenditure is one way to measure household welfare (Rambe, et al., 2008). This indicator calculates the costs incurred for the consumption of all household members during the month, whether derived from purchases, gifts, or own production, divided by the number of household members. The average per capita household expenditure in South Sulawesi in a month was Rp. 1,142,612. This figure is still below the national average of Rp. 1,327,782 (BPS, 2022). In addition, based on Susenas data in 2022, it shows that the classification in Figure 1.1 shows that there are still many households in South Sulawesi that are still in the poor category, especially in early married households.

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Source: Susenas data, 2022 (processed)

Figure 1.1 Number and Percentage of Early Married Female Households in South Sulawesi by Household Per Capita Expenditure in 202 2

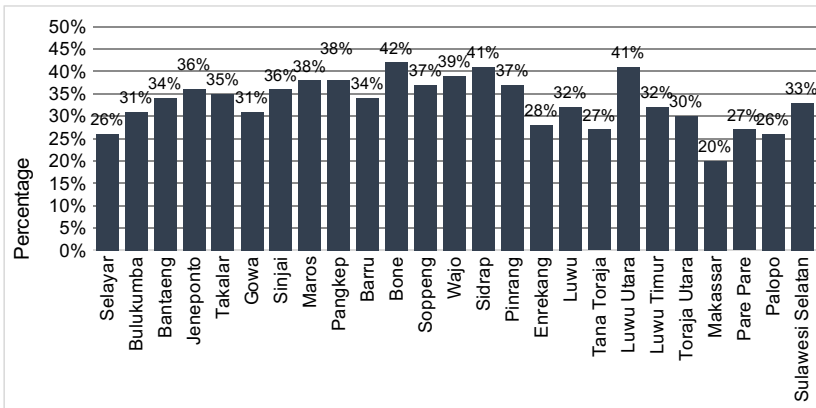
The data above shows that 820,654 early-married female households or about 41 per cent of households in South Sulawesi are in the poorest and poorest categories based on the wealth quintile of household per capita expenditure. This indicates significant economic inequality, with a large proportion of the population facing challenges in meeting their basic needs. In addition, closer attention needs to be paid to the 20 percent of households in the middle category, who may be vulnerable and have limited access to resources. Although relatively small in number compared to poor households, this population can be vulnerable to unexpected economic changes. Therefore, welfare and economic development policies in South Sulawesi should not only aim to address extreme poverty, but also detail solutions that can improve stability and well-being in the middle strata of society. The importance of addressing inequality is also reflected in the fact that around 39 per cent of households fall into the richest and wealthiest categories. Therefore, South Sulawesi needs to implement more serious and targeted efforts to improve welfare, so that its people can enjoy better well-being.

One of the factors that can affect household welfare is children who marry at an early age. (Sagalova, *et al.*, 2021).. Early marriage is the practice of marrying under the age of 19 who are not physically or emotionally ready to face marriage (Vidalia & Asniar, 2022).. In addition, child marriage can cause economic instability in the **household**. (Hasbi, 2019). Research has shown that the impact of early marriage is not only related to girls' lack of emotional preparedness to face the difficulties of married life, but also related to the obstruction of their career opportunities and their limited ability to develop their socioeconomic potential in the future (Durğut & Kisa, 2018; Meidiana & Marha, 2019). (Durğut & Kisa, 2018; Meidiana & Marhaeni, 2019)..

Although the Indonesian government has affirmed its commitment to avoid child marriage by issuing Law No. 16 of 2019 replacing Law No. 1 of 1974 by amending the provisions regarding the minimum age of marriage. Namely, the minimum age of marriage

for women and men has been raised from 16 years to 19 years. However, until now child marriage still occurs in many parts of Indonesia (Bawono et al., 2022).

South Sulawesi is one of the provinces with a percentage of child marriage that exceeds the national average and has a proportion of women aged 20-24 years who are married or cohabiting before the age of 18 years of 9.33 per cent (Putri, 2022; BPS, 2022). Meanwhile, the percentage of female child marriage in various districts/cities in South Sulawesi can be seen in Figure 1.2 below.



Source: Susenas data, 2022 (processed)

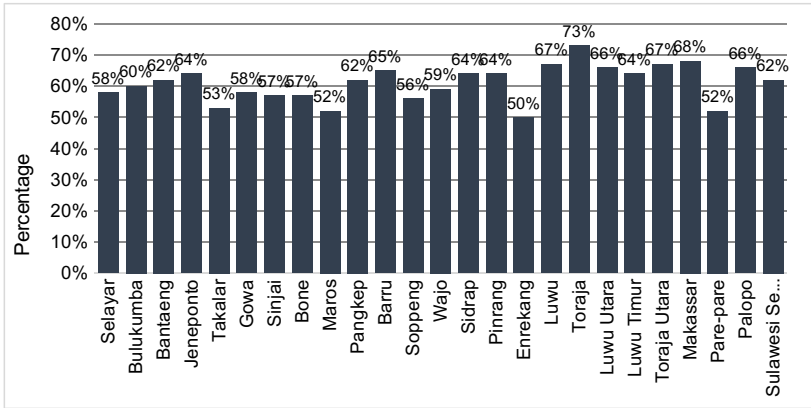
Figure 1.2 Percentage of Women Married Before Age 19 by District/City in 2022

Figure 1.2 above shows that the level of child marriage in districts/municipalities in South Sulawesi is quite high, with an average of over 20 per cent. The three regions with the highest percentage are Bone district with 42 per cent, North Luwu district with 41 per cent, and Sidenreng Rappang district with 41 per cent. This shows that in these three regions almost half of the girls had their first marriage at the age of less than 19 years.

Child marriage can be caused by several factors, including social and cultural norms that encourage child marriage at a very young age. (Bawono, et al., 2022).. Dowry practices, household finances, and the legal framework are factors that contribute to child marriage in South Sulawesi (Ratnaningsih et al., 2022). (Ratnaningsih et al., 2022). The strict attitude of the Bugis community in South Sulawesi towards marriage customs also contributes to the high rate of child marriage in this area (Muliadi, 2016). (Muliadi, 2016). Also, low knowledge of the dangers of child marriage in some areas can also lead to high rates of child marriage (Susanti & Mayang sari, 2016). (Susanti & Mayang Sari, 2019)..

The impact of the high percentage of child marriage can have a negative impact, especially for women (Buton & Idris, 2021). From a physical perspective, women who marry early, become pregnant, and give birth under the age of 19 are at great risk because at that age, their reproductive organs do not yet have sufficient strength for the childbirth process (Buton et al.). Based on Susenas data in 2022, it shows that as many as 2,129 women in South Sulawesi have married and given birth to their first child before reaching the age of 19.

The percentage of women who married and gave birth to their first child under the age of 19 can be seen in Figure 1.3 below.



Source: Susenas data, 2022 (processed)

Figure 1.3 Percentage of Women who gave birth before the Age of 19 and have Married by District/Municipality in 2022

The data in Figure 1.3 also shows that the percentage of women who have married and given birth under the age of 19 varies across districts and cities in South Sulawesi and is above 50 per cent on average. There are three regions with the highest percentage of age at first birth less than 19 years, namely Toraja with a percentage of 73 per cent, Makassar 68 per cent, and Luwu and North Toraja with a percentage of 67 per cent each. This means that in these areas more than 50 per cent of women who have married at an early age and have given birth to their first child are under the age of 19.

The factor that causes the high rate of first childbirth at an early age is the inadequate knowledge of women about the high risk of getting pregnant at an early age. (Talukder *et al.*, 2021). Meanwhile, the impact of pregnancy and childbirth at too young an age can also have serious social and economic impacts on individuals, families and communities. (Fletcher & Padrón, 2016; Childbearing at an early age can have a negative impact on the development of soft skills and personality, which can affect social and economic conditions in the long term (Fletcher & Padrón, 2016; WHO, 2023). (Fletcher & Padrón, 2016)

In addition to age at first marriage and age at first childbirth, education is also a factor that can affect welfare. (Psacharopoulos & Patrinos, 2018). Education is an important factor that can improve welfare, because the level of education achieved by a person can determine his or her chances of obtaining a job with high rewards, which can have an impact on household income and welfare (Ozturk, 2001). (Ozturk, 2001). Similarly, the higher a person's level of education, the better his or her household's welfare because it will have reciprocal benefits such as stable employment and sufficient income (Ozturk, 2001). (OECD, 2023).

Based on data from the Central Bureau of Statistics, the average length of schooling for women in South Sulawesi is only 8.48 years, meaning that most women's schooling in South Sulawesi only reaches grade 2 at the junior high school level.

At the primary school education level, the highest average percentage across districts was 38 per cent. Wajo district and Sinjai district have the highest percentage with 49 per cent each. This means that out of 100 women who married early, 49 had a primary school certificate.

In addition, there is a percentage of early-married women who do not have a primary school certificate but can read and write. The average percentage for this category is around 23 per cent across all districts/cities in South Sulawesi. Bantaeng district has the highest percentage at 35 per cent. This means that out of 100 women who married early, there are still 35 women who do not have a primary school certificate but can read and write.

Furthermore, women who married early and had a junior high school diploma had an average percentage of around 23 per cent in all districts/cities of South Sulawesi. The highest percentage was in Toraja with 36 per cent. This means that out of 100 women who married early, 36 have a junior high school certificate. Finally, the percentage of women who married early and had a senior high school certificate was the lowest overall, averaging around 16 per cent. Barru and Wajo districts had the lowest percentages for this category, at only around 10 per cent. This means that out of 100 women who married early in Barru and Wajo, there are only 10 women who have a high school diploma.

The factors leading to low education in many cases are that families cannot afford to send their daughters to school and can also be influenced by cultural norms, where girls are expected to marry at a young age and prioritise their roles as wives and mothers over education (Hermambang et al., 2021). (Hermambang et al., 2021). The impact of low education can then limit their future employment opportunities (Raj et al., 2019). (Raj *et al.*, 2019).

A high or low level of education can then have an impact on a person's working hours which will then have an impact on their welfare (Widiana and Wenagama, 2019; Badri *et al.*, 2022). Higher education levels tend to have better access to formal employment with stable working hours (UNICEF, 2018). (UNICEF, 2018). On the other hand, individuals with lower education levels may face challenges in finding jobs with stable working hours. Therefore, they will tend to work in the informal sector, which has irregular working hours (Wodon et al., 2018). (Wodon *et al.*, 2017)..

Apart from the number of working hours, there are several other factors that affect household welfare. Some of these factors include ownership of savings, health insurance, and home ownership (Badri, *et al.*, 2022; Beshears, *et al.*, 2020; Illahi and Ariusni, 2020). Household savings play an important role in maintaining consumption balance and family welfare (Pohan et al., 2014). The savings serve as a tool to overcome unstable economic situations in the household, such as when the head of the household falls ill or experiences layoffs, as well as when entering old age (Beshears, *et al.*, 2020).

When an individual enters old age and does not have adequate social security or insurance, the lack of savings can lead to a decline in welfare in old age. The existence of savings allows individuals to divert a portion of income during times of high income to times of low income, thus helping to maintain financial well-being in the long run (Beshears, *et al.*, 2020).

Home ownership has a significant impact on people's overall well-being. In addition to providing stability and positive economic conditions, home ownership can also improve overall welfare for the community (Yahya & Singh, 2017). In order to achieve household welfare and overall community welfare, these factors are interconnected and influence each other.

In addition to home ownership, the number of household members is also an external factor that can affect household welfare. The number of members in a family plays an important role in determining the needs that the family must fulfil (Yantia & Murtalaa, 2019). If the number of household members increases, the needs in the family such as food, clothing, education, health, and other basic needs will also increase. This means that the family needs to spend more money to fulfil these needs (Yantia & Murtalaa, 2019).

Finally, previous research has also shown that one of the factors that can also affect welfare is the region/place of residence (Pradhan & Bagchi, 2015). In relation to women who marry early, the phenomenon of early marriage tends to occur in rural areas, which then forces women to work in the informal sector (Purwaningsih, 2021).

There are differences between urban and rural areas in districts/cities in South Sulawesi in terms of the practice of young marriage. In rural areas, it is dominant in areas categorised as districts. Enrekang district has the highest percentage of child marriage in rural areas, reaching 90 per cent. On the other hand, urban areas generally occur in areas categorised as cities such as Makassar, Pare-pare and Palopo. This difference between areas of residence can also lead to differences in welfare in rural and urban areas. (Hermambang et al, 2021).

In dealing with household welfare problems, the government has made various efforts. One example is the empowerment of vulnerable women and the establishment of social safety nets to address the economic impact (Istriyani et al., 2022). However, there are still challenges that need to be overcome, and this requires community involvement and collaboration with local governments to find innovative solutions to address the social and economic issues faced. Therefore, the aim of this study is to analyse the impact of child marriage on household welfare in South Sulawesi using a literature review to understand more comprehensively the factors that influence household welfare in the region based on theory and empirical research. This research can provide better insights in developing appropriate policies and intervention programmes to improve household welfare in South Sulawesi.

2. Literature Review

Marital Status

The marriage law sets the ideal age for marriage at 21 years for men and 19 years for women, because at this age a person is considered to have reached maturity and is able to assume the responsibilities of a husband or wife. However, in the field there are still many early marriages, namely marriages between men and women who are not legally or psychologically mature (Mubasyaroh, 2016). Some of the factors that cause early marriage include social and cultural pressures, economic factors, and a lack of understanding regarding the impact of early marriage (Pohan & Setiawan, 2024).

Pregnant Status

Pregnancy is an important phase in a woman's life that brings about significant changes both physically and emotionally. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), pregnancy is defined as a physiological condition in which a woman carries one or more foetuses in her womb, requiring special attention to ensure the health of both mother and baby during this time.

According to Santoso (2016) pregnancy is not only a biological process, but also involves legal and social aspects. He emphasised that pregnancy status can affect the rights and obligations of parents towards the child who will be born, as well as its impact on the dynamics of the husband and wife relationship.

Women's education

Education is the main way for a country's progress because it is related to character building and people's ability to defend themselves (Adhitya et al., 2022). Therefore, the level of education of the community must be high to achieve prosperity, because low education will limit the ability of individuals to develop themselves and make it difficult to compete in the world of work, where education is a top priority (Azizah et al., 2018). Women's education is also defined as an effort to address gender inequalities in access to and quality of education

Number of Working Hours

According to Husaini and Fadhlani (2017) the number of working hours is the total amount of time spent by workers to carry out their work activities. The more working hours invested in work, the more likely workers are to increase productivity which can contribute to increased income and welfare, as well as help meet the needs of their households. Meanwhile, according to the Central Bureau of Statistics (BPS) the number of working hours refers to the duration of time in hours used for work of all types of work, excluding official rest time and time spent on matters outside work during one week.

Number of Household Members

According to the Central Bureau of Statistics (BPS), the number of household members is the total number of individuals living in a household or family unit, including all people who share a residence, such as parents, children, and other family members. This definition includes any individual who is related or lives at the same address, regardless of relationship status or economic contribution. According to Mantra (2003), the number of household members living in a household plays a role in determining household welfare.

Savings Ownership

Based on Law No. 10 of 1998 on Banking, savings are defined as deposits owned by customers and can be withdrawn according to certain agreed conditions, but cannot be taken by cheque, bilyet giro, or similar payment instruments. Saving can be understood as the activity of setting aside money stored in a piggy bank or bank, with withdrawals that can only be made based on special rules. Mulyadi and Trizki (2012) define saving as an action that does not spend money at this time with the aim of future use. Thus, various definitions of saving are always related to the actions of individuals who control the area / place of residence and save money for future needs.

Home Ownership

Home ownership according to the World Bank refers to the right of an individual or entity to own, use, and manage residential property. In this context, home ownership includes not only the physical aspects of the property, but also the legal and economic aspects that give the owner the right to utilise the house as a residence, investment, or source of income. The World Bank emphasises the importance of home ownership as part of social and economic development. Home ownership can provide stability for families, improve access to basic services, and contribute to better economic development. In addition, home ownership can be considered an indicator of economic well-being and social security for individuals and families.

Place of Residence Rural

Indonesia's Central Bureau of Statistics (BPS) defines region/place of residence as the geographical area or place where an activity or event takes place. A region/place of residence can be identified using geographical coordinates, a numbering system, or an address. In the context of research, regions/places of residence are usually divided into two categories: urban and rural. Urban refers to the status of an administrative area at the village or kelurahan level that fulfils the criteria for urban area classification. Conversely, rural refers to the status of an administrative area at the village or kelurahan level that does not fulfil these criteria. These regional/place of residence categories are used for data analysis and policy development related to differences in socioeconomic characteristics and conditions between urban and rural areas.

3. Discussion

Marital Status of Children

Marital status according World Health Organization that child marriage is a marriage that occurs when one or both partners are under the age of 19 and are classified as children or adolescents. Meanwhile, UNICEF defines early marriage as a marriage entered into by an individual either officially or unofficially and performed before the individual reaches 18 years of age. Furthermore, according to Santoso (2016) child marital status is defined as a condition in which individuals who are still in the category of children or adolescents are involved in marriage. Akhiruddin (2016) also explains that child marriage status is due to a lack of emotional maturity and understanding of the responsibilities of marriage. This can cause young couples to face significant challenges in living a household life, who are not mentally and materially prepared. Minarni et al. (2014) added that child marriage status not only impacts the couple themselves, but also the children who may be born from the marriage. From the various definitions given by the experts above, child marriage status can be interpreted as a condition in which individuals who are still classified as children or adolescents, who have not reached the age of legal and psychological maturity, are involved in marriage. This status reflects the lack of emotional maturity and readiness of young couples to face the responsibilities of marriage, both in terms of physical, emotional, and financial.

Pregnant Status of Children

Pregnancies in children or adolescents, especially those in marriage, carry significant risks to both the physical and mental health of the child. These risks include complications during childbirth, such as preeclampsia, fistulas, or obstructed labor, as well as the possibility of long-term health issues. According to Kahn and D'Angelo (2018) in their research defined pregnancy as a period full of expectations and challenges, where couples must adapt to the changes that occur in their lives. They highlighted the importance of social support and good communication between couples to maintain mental health during pregnancy. The National Population and Household Planning Agency (BKKBN) states that the age range of 25 to 30 years is the most optimal reproductive period for women. However, based on a survey from the Ministry of Health, most Indonesian women who have married first become pregnant under the age of 25. Early pregnancy among women is a significant global problem. According to UNICEF (2024) young women experiencing pregnancy at this age can disrupt their physical and emotional development. The negative impacts include disruptions to education, with many adolescent girls forced to drop out of school, which reduces future employment opportunities and economic potential. In addition, early pregnancy can lead to social stigma, rejection and violence from neighbours. Health-wise, adolescent women, especially those in early adolescence, are vulnerable to serious complications such as obstetric fistula and eclampsia, as their bodies may not be ready for pregnancy and childbirth. Therefore, early pregnancy status requires serious attention from society and policymakers to protect the health and future of adolescent women.

The negative impact of early pregnancy is significant, both in terms of health and social aspects. Women who experience pregnancy at an early age are prone to serious health complications, such as eclampsia and obstetric fistula, because their bodies are not physically

ready to undergo pregnancy and childbirth. In addition, early pregnancy status can reduce their economic potential in the future.

Education Of Children

Education is one of the main pillars in strengthening human capital for economic development and is a long-term investment. According to the World Bank (2021) in its report before the United Nations, education is the most important aspect of human development besides the economy because education can improve people's lives. UNICEF (2024) investing in girls' education has a significant impact on communities, countries and the world. Educated women are less likely to marry young and lead healthier and more productive lives. They are also more likely to have higher incomes, be involved in decisions that affect their lives, and create a better future for themselves and their households. Girls' education also strengthens the economy and reduces inequality, and helps build a more stable society as individuals, including men, can develop their full potential. However, the flip side is that those who marry at a young age tend to be forced to stop formal education, which reduces their opportunities to pursue higher studies or develop professional skills. This can result in limited access to better jobs. In addition, early marriage also risks exacerbating the gender gap in education and limiting their potential to contribute fully to the economy and society. Women's education should include removing barriers that prevent women from getting an education, such as poverty, discriminatory cultural norms and early marriage. Thus, women's education is one of the important pillars in sustainable development and achieving global goals, such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that emphasise gender equality and quality education for all (World Bank report, 2018). Education for women has a significant impact on individual well-being and community development. Educated women tend to have better skills, higher earnings, and participate actively in decision-making. Education also enables women to contribute more to the economy and reduce gender inequality. Moreover, investing in women's education not only improves their own lives, but also provides long-term benefits to their families and communities, strengthens the economy, and creates a more just and stable society.

Number of Working Hours on Household Welfare

The number of working hours is used to measure the intensity and duration of a person's work (Siregar & Nurdahlia, 2023). In some contexts, such as in Indonesia, the number of working hours has been regulated by legislation. Law No. 13 of 2013 on Manpower stipulates that workers must work a maximum of 40 hours per week, with a maximum of 8 hours per day, unless there are special provisions stipulated by company regulations or work agreements (Siregar & Nurdahlia, 2023). It can be interpreted as the total time spent by a worker in carrying out his work activities, without including rest time. This amount is an important indicator to measure work intensity and productivity. The regulation of the number of working hours aims to maintain a balance between work and workers' welfare. Women who marry early tend to work irregular hours in the informal sector, which affects income

stability and overall household welfare. This suggests a negative relationship between early marriage and economic stability.

Number of Household Members on Household Welfare

Household members living in a household plays a role in determining household welfare. The more household members, the greater the expenditure required and may reduce the household's ability to save. This lack of savings affects access to education, health and sanitation, which in turn affects household productivity and quality of life (Ishartono & Raharjo, 2016). The number of household members is one of the causes of declining welfare, especially in poor households because the larger the number of members, the heavier the financial burden that must be borne. Large dependents, such as many children and elderly household members who are not working, can put pressure on the household's economic condition (Suprianto et al., 2019). Therefore, in the context of welfare, a larger number of household members can be a factor that reduces the household's quality of life and economic opportunities (Adhitya et al., 2022). The number of household members can be interpreted as the total number of individuals living in one house, including all people who share the dwelling without regard to relationship status or economic contribution. The more household members, the higher the expenditure required. Consequently, a larger number of household members can result in a decline in welfare, especially in poor households, where the increased financial burden can put pressure on economic conditions.

Savings Ownership on Household Welfare

Savings account ownership is one of the important elements in financial inclusion. The desire to save can be seen as an urge to set aside income so that it can be stored in a certain place with withdrawals that can only be made according to established rules, in order to maintain future consumption capabilities (Gaffar & Sarnawiyah, 2022). Savings account ownership provides access for individuals and households to utilise various formal financial services, such as savings, money transfers, payments, and insurance. Factors such as demographic, socio-economic characteristics, digital access, and household asset ownership influence the decision to open an account at a formal financial institution (Fitzpatrick, 2013; Gitaharie et al., 2014; Li et al., 2011). In addition, proximity to financial institutions also makes it easier for people to access these services, expanding overall financial inclusion (Allen et al., 2016). Savings ownership gives individuals and households access to set aside funds, manage expenses, and plan for the future. This contributes to economic stability and improved welfare. Factors such as demographic, socio-economic characteristics and access to financial institutions also influence an individual's decision to have savings. With savings, individuals can be better prepared for immediate needs and achieve long-term financial goals. Families involved in child marriage tend to have low savings, making them vulnerable to economic instability. Lack of savings worsens welfare conditions, especially when faced with emergency needs or a drop in income.

Home Ownership on Household Welfare

Home ownership can also be seen as a form of investment, both financially and socially. Retsinas and Belsky (2002) explain that a house is not just a place to live, but also an asset that has the potential to increase in value over time. In the social context, home ownership is considered to facilitate better social interaction, enhance community networks, and encourage participation in local activities. In China, home ownership is associated with wealth accumulation and reduced feelings of relative deprivation (Yu et al., 2023). This suggests that owning a home serves not only as a place to live, but also as a status symbol and source of emotional stability for the owner. Home ownership encourages social interaction, enhances community networks, and contributes to the psychological and social well-being of homeowners, thus playing an important role in overall social and economic development. Home ownership can provide economic stability for households. However, early married households often lack home ownership, which negatively affects their welfare and financial security.

Place of Residence Rural on Household Welfare

Residential areas can be divided into two main categories, namely urban and rural areas (Ridena, 2021). Urban areas are characterised by high population density, diversity of economic activities, and more developed infrastructure, functioning as centres of government, trade, and social services. Rural areas, on the other hand, have lower population densities, are dominated by agricultural activities and natural resource management, with closer-knit communities and a focus on traditional social activities. Differences between the two include access to services, economic opportunities, and quality of life, which often vary more in urban areas compared to rural areas. Households in rural areas may have lower income levels than those in urban areas due to limited access to high-paying jobs, industries, and entrepreneurial opportunities. However, rural areas may offer agricultural opportunities and lower living costs, which can somewhat offset these challenges (Ravallion, M., & Wodon, Q, 2000)

Conclusion

Based on the research objective to analyse the impact of child marriage on household welfare in South Sulawesi, several important variables used in this study, namely child marriage status, pregnancy status, women's education, number of working hours, number of household members, savings ownership, house ownership, and region of residence, provide significant conclusions as follows:

Child Marriage Status: Early marriage has a negative influence on household welfare. Child marriage often occurs in poor households and limits women's economic opportunities,

resulting in a decrease in household income; **Pregnancy Status:** Early pregnancy increases the risk of maternal and child health complications. This has a direct impact on household welfare, especially in terms of health costs and economic instability due to women's lack of physical preparedness for pregnancy and childbirth; **Women's Education:** Low education among women who marry early has a negative effect on household welfare. The lower the level of education, the more limited the opportunities for formal employment with stable incomes, thus reducing household welfare; **Number of Working Hours:** Women who marry early tend to work irregular hours in the informal sector, which affects income stability and overall household welfare. This suggests a negative relationship between early marriage and economic stability; **Number of Household Members:** The larger the number of household members, the higher the costs for basic needs, which in turn reduces welfare levels. Households with a larger number of members who marry early tend to be more economically vulnerable; **Savings Ownership:** Families involved in child marriage tend to have low savings, making them vulnerable to economic instability. Lack of savings worsens welfare conditions, especially when faced with emergency needs or a drop in income; **Home Ownership:** Home ownership can provide economic stability for households. However, early married households often lack home ownership, which negatively affects their welfare and financial security; **Region of Residence (Rural):** Child marriage is more prevalent in rural areas, where access to education and health services is more limited. This exacerbates socioeconomic and welfare inequalities in rural areas compared to urban areas.

Overall, child marriage has significant and negative impacts on various aspects of household welfare in South Sulawesi. Policy interventions that focus on improving education, health and economic stability are urgently needed to mitigate these negative impacts.

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