



**DETERMINAN PERNIKAHAN DINI PADA REMAJA DI
DESA MOLOKU, KECAMATAN GANE BARAT, KABUPATEN
HALMAHERA SELATAN**

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ABSTRACT

Early marriage remains a social issue in Moloku Village, West Gane District, South Halmahera Regency. Adolescents who marry before the age of 19 often lack the physical, psychological, social, and economic readiness required for married life. This study aims to identify the factors contributing to early marriage among adolescents in the village. A qualitative descriptive method was employed, with data collected through interviews. The participants consisted of six adolescents who married at the age of 19 years or younger. The findings indicate that early marriage is influenced by economic difficulties, premarital pregnancy, low educational attainment, inadequate parental supervision, free social interaction, and socio-cultural influences. The most dominant factors were premarital pregnancy and family economic conditions. The study also identified regional, environmental, and spatial factors, as the community is characterized by a traditional and relatively homogeneous environment that limits social interactions within a confined spatial context. It is concluded that early marriage results from interconnected internal and external factors. Therefore, continuous education, stronger parental involvement, and increased awareness of the consequences of early marriage are essential to reduce its occurrence among adolescents.

KEY WORDS: *Early Marriage, Premarital Pregnancy, Socioeconomic Factors, Socio-Cultural Influences, Spatial Factors*

ABSTRAK

Pernikahan dini masih menjadi permasalahan sosial di Desa Moloku, Kecamatan Gane Barat, Kabupaten Halmahera Selatan. Remaja yang menikah sebelum usia 19 tahun umumnya belum memiliki kesiapan fisik, psikologis, sosial, dan ekonomi yang memadai untuk menjalani kehidupan berumah tangga. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengidentifikasi faktor-faktor yang menyebabkan terjadinya pernikahan dini pada remaja di desa tersebut. Penelitian menggunakan metode deskriptif kualitatif dengan teknik pengumpulan data melalui wawancara. Partisipan penelitian terdiri atas enam orang remaja yang menikah pada usia 19 tahun atau lebih muda. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa pernikahan dini dipengaruhi oleh berbagai faktor, yaitu kesulitan ekonomi, kehamilan pranikah, rendahnya tingkat pendidikan, kurangnya pengawasan orang tua, pergaulan bebas, serta pengaruh sosial dan budaya. Faktor yang paling dominan adalah kehamilan pranikah dan kondisi ekonomi keluarga. Penelitian ini juga menemukan adanya faktor wilayah, lingkungan, dan keruangan, mengingat masyarakat Desa Moloku hidup dalam lingkungan yang masih bersifat tradisional dan relatif homogen sehingga interaksi sosial berlangsung dalam ruang sosial yang terbatas. Dengan demikian, dapat disimpulkan bahwa pernikahan dini merupakan hasil dari keterkaitan antara faktor internal dan eksternal. Oleh karena itu, diperlukan upaya berkelanjutan berupa peningkatan edukasi, penguatan peran orang tua, serta peningkatan kesadaran masyarakat mengenai dampak pernikahan dini guna menekan angka pernikahan dini di kalangan remaja.

KATA KUNCI: *Pernikahan Dini, Kehamilan Pranikah, Faktor Sosioekonomi, Pengaruh Sosiokultural, Faktor Spasial*

INTRODUCTION

Early marriage remains one of the social issues frequently encountered in various regions of Indonesia, particularly in rural areas. According to Law Number 16 of 2019, which amended Law Number 1 of 1974 on Marriage, the minimum legal age for marriage for both males and females is 19 years. This regulation aims to protect children's rights and ensure adequate physical, psychological, social, and economic readiness before entering married life.

Nevertheless, in practice, many adolescents still marry below the legally prescribed age due to various interconnected factors.

Early marriage not only affects the individuals involved but also has broader implications for human resource quality, educational attainment, reproductive health, and the socioeconomic conditions of communities. Adolescents who marry at a young age are more likely to experience school dropout, limited employment opportunities, inadequate parenting readiness, and higher reproductive health risks compared to those who marry at a more mature age. Consequently, early marriage has become a critical issue requiring attention from governments, educational institutions, families, and society as a whole.

Numerous studies have examined the phenomenon of early marriage from different perspectives. A study conducted by Ligit (2016) revealed that adolescent girls who entered early marriage due to premarital pregnancy experienced challenges in self-control and marital adjustment. Furthermore, research by Ningsih and Rahmadi (2020) found that early marriage persists despite legal regulations concerning the minimum age of marriage, largely due to social and cultural influences within communities. Similarly, a study by Siregar and Sumanti (2023) emphasized the importance of persuasive communication by village governments in reducing early marriage rates through community-based approaches. Meanwhile, Arbelia and Riany (2022) identified economic constraints and efforts to avoid premarital relationships as major factors contributing to early marriage among adolescents.

Although previous studies have explored the causes and consequences of early marriage, most have focused primarily on psychological, social, and economic dimensions. Research examining the relationship between early marriage and regional characteristics, social environments, and spatial conditions remains limited, particularly in rural communities of South Halmahera Regency. From a geographical perspective, social phenomena cannot be separated from the characteristics of the regions in which people live, as each area possesses unique social, cultural, economic, and environmental attributes that influence human behavior.

Moloku Village, located in West Gane District, South Halmahera Regency, is one of the areas where cases of early marriage among adolescents continue to occur. Preliminary information obtained from village authorities indicates an increase in the number of early marriages in recent years. This phenomenon is believed to be influenced by various factors, including family economic conditions, low educational attainment, premarital pregnancy, inadequate parental supervision, unrestricted peer interactions, and prevailing socio-cultural norms. In addition, the relatively homogeneous and traditional characteristics of the community contribute to shaping adolescents' social interactions and behavioral patterns.

From a geographical perspective, early marriage can be analyzed through regional, environmental, and spatial approaches. The regional approach emphasizes the unique characteristics of a particular area that influence the behavior of its population. The environmental approach examines the reciprocal relationship between humans and their socio-cultural environment in shaping social behavior. Meanwhile, the spatial approach focuses on population distribution, access to education, and patterns of social interaction within specific spaces. Therefore, this study not only identifies the determinants of early marriage but also investigates their relationship with the geographical conditions of the area where adolescents reside.

This study aims to analyze the determinants of early marriage among adolescents in Moloku Village, West Gane District, South Halmahera Regency. The findings are expected to contribute to the development of Geography Education, particularly in the fields of population studies and human-environment interactions. Furthermore, the study is expected to provide valuable information for local governments, educational institutions, and communities in formulating more comprehensive social, educational, and regional strategies to prevent early marriage.

RESEARCH METHODS

This study employed a descriptive qualitative approach. According to Walidin, Saifullah, and Tabrani (2015), qualitative research is a research process aimed at understanding human or social phenomena through descriptive data presentation based on information obtained from informants in a natural setting. This approach was selected to gain an in-depth understanding of the factors contributing to early marriage among adolescents in Moloku Village, West Gane District, South Halmahera Regency. The study was conducted in Moloku Village, West Gane District, South Halmahera Regency, from February to April 2025. The research participants consisted of six adolescents who married at the age of 19 years or younger (≤ 19 years). The informants were selected purposively based on their relevance to the objectives of the study.

The sources of data included both primary and secondary data. Primary data were obtained directly from the informants through interviews, while secondary data were collected from relevant documents and literature related to the research topic. Data were collected through interviews. According to Sugiyono (2007), data collection can be conducted using various techniques, including interviews. Interviews were conducted to obtain information regarding the factors underlying early marriage. Data analysis was carried out using the interactive model developed by Matthew B. Miles and A. Michael Huberman (1984), which consists of three stages: data reduction, data display, and conclusion drawing or verification. The analysis process was conducted continuously from the data collection stage until conclusions consistent with the research objectives were obtained.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This study involved six informants who married between the ages of 17 and 19. Based on the interview results, four informants entered into early marriage due to premarital pregnancy, while two others married because of family economic difficulties. Most informants had completed senior high school education; however, economic conditions and social factors continued to influence their decision to marry at a young age.

Table 1. Characteristics of Informants

| Informant | Age at Marriage | Dominant Factor |
|-----------|-----------------|----------------------|
| BD | 18 | Premarital Pregnancy |
| NB | 17 | Premarital Pregnancy |
| SS | 17 | Economic Factors |
| MM | 18 | Premarital Pregnancy |
| EO | 18 | Premarital Pregnancy |
| NT | 19 | Economic Factors |

The findings indicate that premarital pregnancy was the most dominant factor contributing to early marriage in Moloku Village, followed by family economic conditions.

Economic Factors as a Determinant of Early Marriage

The interview results revealed that economic hardship was one of the primary reasons adolescents entered into early marriage. Limited financial resources prevented some adolescents from continuing their education and encouraged them to view marriage as an alternative means of reducing the economic burden on their families. Parents also tended to support such decisions because marriage was perceived as a strategy for alleviating household financial responsibilities.

These findings suggest that economic conditions remain a structural factor influencing decisions regarding marriage at a young age. In rural communities, marriage is often regarded as a solution to economic difficulties faced by families. This finding is consistent with the study of Padlah (2022), which identified economic limitations as a major determinant of early marriage. Similarly, Widayanti et al (2024) reported that socioeconomic inequality contributes significantly

to the prevalence of early marriage among young women. Therefore, economic factors not only affect adolescents' access to education but also shape family perceptions regarding their children's future, making early marriage appear to be a rational choice.

Premarital Pregnancy as the Dominant Factor

The findings showed that four out of six informants married because they experienced premarital pregnancy. This condition was influenced by limited knowledge of reproductive health, inadequate sex education, and insufficient parental supervision.

Within the social context of Moloku Village, premarital pregnancy is often viewed as a circumstance that may damage family honor. Consequently, marriage becomes the preferred solution to preserve social reputation and family dignity. These findings support the study by Ligit (2016), which explained that many cases of early marriage occur as a consequence of premarital pregnancy. Similarly, Astuti et al. (2020) found that premarital pregnancy frequently results in early marriage as a socially acceptable response to moral and cultural pressures. Based on these findings, premarital pregnancy can be identified as the most dominant determinant of early marriage among adolescents in Moloku Village.

Low Educational Attainment and Adolescent Knowledge

Education plays an important role in shaping individuals' critical thinking skills and decision-making abilities. The interview results indicated that several informants acknowledged that early marriage limited their educational opportunities and reduced their chances for personal development.

Low educational attainment contributes to a limited understanding of the long-term consequences of early marriage, including reproductive health risks, economic challenges, and future family welfare. These findings support Anggraini and Pamungkasari (2020), who argued that lower levels of education increase the likelihood of early marriage. Likewise, Indanah et al. (2020) reported that adolescents with lower educational attainment are more vulnerable to entering marriage at an early age than those with higher levels of education. Therefore, improving educational access and encouraging continued participation in formal education are important strategies for reducing early marriage among adolescents.

Lack of Parental Supervision and Risky Peer Associations

The findings demonstrated that insufficient parental attention and supervision contributed to the occurrence of early marriage. Several informants reported that their parents' work-related responsibilities reduced the amount of guidance and monitoring they received, leading them to seek attention and social support outside the family environment.

In addition, all informants associated early marriage with risky peer interactions among adolescents. Such interactions increase the likelihood of premarital sexual relationships, which may eventually result in premarital pregnancy and early marriage. These findings are consistent with those of Putri et al. (2024), who identified a significant relationship between adolescent peer behavior and the incidence of early marriage among young women. Thus, family supervision plays a crucial role in preventing risky adolescent behavior and reducing the likelihood of early marriage.

Socio-Cultural Influences on Early Marriage

The results indicated that some community members continue to perceive early marriage as a socially acceptable practice. Such perceptions contribute to the persistence of early marriage despite legal regulations establishing a minimum age for marriage.

This finding supports the research of Ningsih and Rahmadi (2020), which emphasized that social and cultural values remain influential factors in the continuation of early marriage practices. Likewise, Mubasyaroh (2016) found that local traditions and cultural expectations

often encourage adolescents to marry at a younger age. From a socio-cultural perspective, early marriage is not merely an individual decision but also a product of social norms and values embedded within the community.

Geographical Analysis: Regional, Environmental, and Spatial Factors

From a geographical perspective, early marriage in Moloku Village is influenced by regional, environmental, and spatial characteristics. The village is predominantly rural, with livelihoods largely dependent on agriculture and fisheries. Its relatively homogeneous social structure contributes to the persistence of traditional values and norms.

From an environmental perspective, community members continue to maintain strong traditional social values, which influence adolescent behavior and perceptions regarding marriage. These environmental conditions shape community acceptance of early marriage as a normal social practice. From a spatial perspective, the concentration of settlements and limited access to educational and public services restrict adolescents' opportunities for broader social interaction and personal development. Such conditions may increase the intensity of local peer interactions and indirectly contribute to early marriage.

These findings support the argument of Rika (2023), who emphasized that social and environmental contexts play a significant role in shaping adolescents' decisions regarding marriage. Furthermore, Desiyanti (2015) found that environmental and family-related factors are strongly associated with the prevalence of early marriage in rural communities.

Synthesis of Findings

Overall, the determinants of early marriage in Moloku Village can be classified into internal and external factors. Internal factors include low educational attainment, limited knowledge, and risky peer associations. External factors consist of family economic conditions, inadequate parental supervision, socio-cultural influences, and geographical characteristics related to regional, environmental, and spatial conditions.

Among these determinants, premarital pregnancy and economic hardship emerged as the most dominant factors. These factors are closely interconnected with educational limitations, weak family supervision, and the influence of the surrounding social environment. Therefore, early marriage in Moloku Village should be understood as a multidimensional phenomenon that requires integrated educational, social, economic, and geographical interventions.

CONCLUSION

Based on the findings of this study, it can be concluded that early marriage among adolescents in Moloku Village, West Gane District, South Halmahera Regency is influenced by various interrelated internal and external factors. These factors include family economic conditions, premarital pregnancy, low educational attainment, inadequate parental supervision, risky peer associations, and socio-cultural influences within the community.

Premarital pregnancy and family economic hardship were identified as the most dominant factors contributing to early marriage. Premarital pregnancy often compels adolescents to enter marriage in order to preserve family honor and conform to prevailing social norms. Meanwhile, limited economic resources encourage some families and adolescents to perceive marriage as a solution to reducing household financial burdens. From a geographical perspective, the phenomenon of early marriage in Moloku Village is also influenced by regional, environmental, and spatial factors. The relatively homogeneous nature of the community, the persistence of traditional values, and limited access to education and information contribute to patterns of adolescent behavior and social interaction that increase the likelihood of early marriage.

The findings indicate that early marriage is a multidimensional phenomenon influenced

not only by individual factors but also by family circumstances, social and cultural environments, and regional characteristics. Therefore, efforts to prevent early marriage should involve improving access to education, strengthening parental roles in adolescent supervision and guidance, enhancing reproductive health education, and conducting continuous public awareness programs regarding the consequences of early marriage, particularly in rural communities.

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