

EARLY MARRIAGE EDUCATION AT ISLAMIC HIGH SCHOOL OF NAHDLATUL WATHAN KERUAK, KERUAK DISTRICT

Umar Bakri, Rijnan, Muhamad Zaryl Gapari, Nur Cahyani Ibnu Mariam S.

STIT Palapa Nusantara Lombok NTB, Indonesia
bakriomar1990@gmail.com; rijnannanda@gmail.com

Abstract

Early marriage, which reflects the low social status of women, remains a persistent social tradition that extends the childbearing period faced by adolescent brides and increases childbirth risks because they are not yet physically ready to give birth. This study aims to examine the implementation of early marriage education at MA NW Keruak and its impact on students' awareness and behavior regarding early marriage. A qualitative method was employed, with data collected through interviews, observation, and documentation. The findings show that MA NW Keruak implements early marriage education through counseling, discussions, and extracurricular activities, thereby embedding the topic within both formal and non-formal school contexts. This education has a positive impact on students' awareness of the risks and consequences of early marriage. The study concludes that integrating early marriage education into school programs constitutes a strategic effort to strengthen adolescents' understanding of early marriage and is expected to serve as a reference for other schools in designing similar educational initiatives to help reduce the incidence of early marriage.

Keywords: Early Marriage; Early Marriage Education; Students' Awareness; Students' Behavior; School-Based Prevention Program

INTRODUCTION

East Lombok is well known as the region with the second-highest number of early marriage cases in West Nusa Tenggara, at 58.1% (Rosamali et al., 2020). East Lombok, with an area of 2,679.88 km², consists of 21 sub-districts and 254 villages with a population of 369,918 (Medinskaya, 2021). The income of the population of East Lombok Regency is mostly in the agricultural and maritime sectors, at 50%. The total income of the population of East Lombok Regency is still lower than other regencies, with low income causing several problems that occur in East Lombok Regency, such as unemployment, poverty, and early marriage (Sitti Rachma Ramadhani Maskur et al., 2023).

Marriage is a method chosen by Allah for humans to develop offspring, procreate, and preserve their lives, after each partner (man and woman) is ready to fulfill their positive roles in realizing the legitimate goals of marriage (Ningsih et al., 2020). Marriage in Islam holds a very important position as an act of worship and a sunnah of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). However, early marriage, which occurs before the couple reaches physical, mental, and economic maturity, often causes problems in domestic life (Malisi, 2022).

Early marriage is a significant problem that occurs in District Keruak. The habituation or normalization of society has increased the number of teenager that is fallen into early marriage even though the government has made efforts by issuing regulations in UUD No. 1 of 1974 article 7 regulates the minimum age limit for marriage where marriage is only permitted if the man has reached the age of 19 years and the woman has reached the age of 16 years (Kurniawati et al., 2016).

The requirements for marriage are that they require the ability, material, age, psychological, physical and mental maturity to carry out the marriage, because the ability, material, age, psychological and mental maturity will later determine the continuity or lifespan of a marriage, so that the purpose of marriage can be realized properly without ending in divorce and having good and healthy offspring, so that marriages between prospective husbands or wives who are still underage must be prevented.

Education is a learning process aimed at educating, imparting knowledge, and developing personal potential. Education is defined as the teaching and training efforts to change the attitudes and behavior of an individual or group in order to mature them. Education is able to conducted formally or informally (Syarif hidayatullah, 2014).

According to the board of the National Family Planning Coordinating (BKKBN), the ideal age for marriage for women is 20-35, and for men, 25-40. This is because at this age, women's reproductive organs are psychologically well-developed and strong, ready to bear children, and they are physically and mentally mature. Meanwhile, men at this age are psychologically and physically strong, capable of supporting their families, protecting them psychologically, emotionally, economically, and socially.

Early marriage is marriage performed at the age of 16 for women and 19 for men. Early marriage, besides reflecting the low status of women, is also a social tradition that results in a relatively longer childbearing period for teenage brides, as well as higher labor risks because they are not physically ready to give birth (Muhammad Ali, 2017). The prevalence of early marriage in Indonesia also poses a reproductive and psychological health problem.

Nahdlatul Wathan Islamic High School is one of the private schools where early marriages are prevalent. These early marriages at MA NW Keruak are caused by several factors, including broken homes, promiscuity, unhealthy environmental influences, and low economic status. These factors can influence students' behavior and lead them to choose early marriage.

Previous research, titled "The Impact of Early Marriage in Keruak Village, Keruak District, East Lombok Regency" (Ningsih et al., 2020), differs in its findings, which examine the impact of early marriage in Keruak Village and the socialization and approaches used to reduce the number of early marriages.

The early marriage education program at MA NW Keruak is one of the efforts undertaken to address early marriage among students. This program includes outreach on reproductive health education, women's rights, the negative impacts of early marriage, counseling and guidance, as well as supervision and monitoring of students at risk of early marriage or who have already married. Based on the data presented above, this is the reason why researchers are interested in further examining Early Marriage Education at MA NW Keruak.

METHODS

Qualitative research focuses more on describing the nature or essence of a particular object or phenomenon. Qualitative research methods are used to examine natural conditions, with the researcher acting as the key instrument. Data collection techniques include triangulation and analysis, rather than generalization (Zuchri Abdussamad, 2021). This research employed a qualitative approach with field research. Qualitative research methods aim to describe phenomena in depth within their natural context without the use of numerical data (Sugiyono, 2011).

The research location is at Nahdlatul Wathan Islamic High School, Keruak Village, Keruak District, East Lombok. The research carried out by the researcher was carried out in accordance with the research decree issued, starting from April-May 2025. The research object used in this study was the MA NW Keruak School in Dane Rase village, Keruak district, East Lombok. The research subjects included the principal, class teachers, and students.

Data was collected through interviews, observation, and documentation. Data validity was tested using triangulation of sources, techniques, and time. Data analysis involved data reduction, data presentation, and verification or drawing conclusions.

RESULTS

1. Factors Causing Early Marriage at MA NW Keruak

From an interview with the principal, he stated that early marriages occurring at MA NW Keruak are caused by several main factors, including:

a. Broken Home

Broken home is a term describing a family that is not intact or complete, usually due to divorce, the death of a parent, or the absence of a parent in the child's life. This is why students choose to marry to receive more attention and affection.

The four early marriages occurring in MA NW Keruak due to broken homes are:

Sri Wahyuni is a child living in Tanjung. She married at a young age, a condition known as early marriage. Her broken family background appears to have been one of the factors driving her to seek equality in marriage. Sri Wahyuni saw marriage as a way to achieve the emotional stability she lacked in her family.

Bungaria is a child living in a small town. She married at a young age due to her broken home. Without good role models from her parents, Bungaria may not have developed a good understanding of healthy relationships, leading her to marry at an early age.

Baiq Septiani is a child living in Tanjung Luar. Baiq married at a young age due to her broken home. The experience of living in an incomplete or disharmonious family can influence her decision to seek happiness. A broken home can cause significant emotional stress for Baiq, leading her to seek escape in early marriage.

Ade Mariska lives in Lungkak. She is one of the students who married early due to her broken home background. She chose marriage as a way to receive the love, attention, and support she lacked from her family.

b. Environment/Free Association

Free association is a term used to describe uncontrolled or unrestricted social behavior, especially in relationships between men and women. Free association can encompass a variety of behaviors, such as premarital sex, lack of boundaries, lack of responsibility, and environmental influences.

Four early marriages occurred at MA NW Keruak due to environmental/social factors:

Sarah Aulia is one of the students who married at an early age due to environmental factors/free association. She lives in Keruak. Sarah Aulia was trapped in an early marriage due to the influence of free association, which made her feel that early marriage was a solution to avoid social pressure or to seek security in a relationship. However, this decision may also have been influenced by a lack of awareness of the consequences of early marriage and a lack of support from her family or community, leading her to choose early marriage.

Yuliana Lestari married at a young age due to environmental factors that supported early marriage or promiscuity, which made her feel it was the right choice. She is a student living in Batu Rimpang. Social pressures and cultural norms in her community encouraged early marriage, and promiscuity led her to believe that early marriage was the path to happiness.

Diana Auriana married at a young age due to the influence of promiscuity and her environment, which led her to engage in an unplanned relationship. Pressure from her partner and her community made her feel that early marriage was a solution to avoid negative

public perception and maintain her reputation. In this case, early marriage became a choice to address the problems arising from promiscuity. Diana is a student living in Lengaloh.

Wahyudi is an 18-year-old teenager living in a coastal neighborhood in Tanjung Luar, where social norms and parental supervision are often lax. In his daily life, Wahyudi socializes with peers, many of whom are accustomed to a free-spirited lifestyle and controlled drinking. He begins to engage in unhealthy promiscuity, including romantic relationships that are not bound by religious values or social ethics. Wahyudi's marriage is not the result of mental, emotional, or financial readiness but rather due to environmental pressure and a lack of education and supervision of his relationships.

c. Low Economic Status

Economic status is one factor that can influence a child's educational attainment. Parents with a stable economy are more likely to be able to send their children to higher education. This contrasts with parents with low economic status or those unable to afford higher education, who often choose not to pursue higher education.

Four early marriages at MA NW Keruak due to low economic status occurred:

Rian Apriandi, a student who married at a young age due to low economic status, felt that early marriage was a better option to increase economic stability and reduce family burdens. Rian and his partner hoped that by marrying, they could support each other and improve their standard of living. Rian resides in Keruak.

Hendra Setiawan married at a young age due to economic hardship, which forced him to earn a living and support himself from an early age. By marrying, he hoped to share the financial burden with his partner and increase their financial stability. Hendra is a student living in Motong Renggi.

Ita Maisaroh married at a young age due to economic hardship, which forced her to seek stability and financial security through marriage. She comes from a low-income family and sees marriage as a way to improve her standard of living and receive financial support from her partner. Ita is a child living in Batu Rimpang.

The interview results above align with the statement from one of the homeroom teachers, who stated that the factors contributing to early marriage at MA NW Keruak are broken homes, promiscuity, and low family income. Therefore, it is not unusual for students to choose to marry at an early age.

2. Efforts of Islamic High School to Address Early Marriage at MA NW Keruak

The madrasah's efforts to address early marriage at MA NW Keruak are a series of activities and programs implemented by the madrasah to prevent and reduce the number of early marriages among students.

Based on an interview with the principal regarding the madrasah's efforts to address early marriage, he explained that the madrasah has implemented several efforts, including encouraging each homeroom teacher to conduct home visits or engage with students and their parents, as well as providing education about early marriage.

The interview results align with the statement from one of the homeroom teachers, who stated that the madrasah's efforts to address early marriage include visiting each student's home to get to know them better, understand their family circumstances, and identify the problems they face.

3. The Programs of Early Marriage Education at MA NW Keruak

The early marriage education program is designed to provide students with knowledge, skills, and values about early marriage and its impact on their lives. The goals of the early marriage education program are to reduce the incidence of early marriage, increase students' awareness of early marriage and its impact on their lives, increase students' readiness for marriage and to face challenges in marriage, and improve the quality of marriage by providing the knowledge and skills necessary to build a healthy and happy marriage.

As stated by the principal in an interview, the early marriage education program at the madrasah includes several programs, including:

a. Socialization consists of:

- 1) Reproductive health education, which provides education on reproductive health and women's rights to students.
- 2) Education on early marriage, which provides education on the dangers of early marriage, the negative impacts of early marriage, and the importance of postponing marriage until a more mature age.

b. Counseling and Guidance, which consists of:

- 1) Counseling, which provides counseling services to assist students facing early marriage or planning to marry early.
- 2) Guidance, which provides guidance to help students develop skills and awareness in dealing with the problems of early marriage.

c. Prevention, which consists of:

- 1) Supervision and monitoring, which supervises and monitors students who are at risk of early marriage or who have already married early.
- 2) Collaboration with parents: Working with parents to increase their awareness and participation in addressing early marriage.

The interview results above aligned with the statement from one of the homeroom teachers. It was stated that early marriage education in madrasas involves several programs, including providing information on reproductive health and women's rights to students, addressing the negative impacts of early marriage, counseling and guidance, and monitoring and supervising students at risk of early marriage or those who have already married.

DISCUSSION

1. Factors Causing Early Marriage

Early marriage is a complex social issue and is influenced by several factors. The following are the causes of early marriage according to experts, including:

The main cause of early marriage is the family's economic situation. Economic factors are a significant factor influencing parents' or individuals' decisions to marry at an early age. In many cases, families with low economic status may see early marriage as a way to reduce the economic burden, especially for girls (Merry Luz et al., 2025).

The causes of early marriage are often driven by traditional norms that require girls to marry at a very young age. Cultural factors that view early marriage as part of tradition or social norms are also a major cause. In some cultures, marriage is seen as a way to maintain family honor or as a necessary stage in life, even if the bride and groom are still very young. A contributing factor to early marriage is low education, especially among girls, which can increase the incidence of early marriage. Lack of access to quality education leaves girls with few options other than early marriage.

Early marriage is a complex issue and has a significant impact on the lives of individuals, families, and communities. At MA NW Keruak, early marriage is a serious concern because it can affect the future of students and the local community. In this analysis, we will discuss the factors contributing to early marriage at MA NW Keruak, particularly broken homes, promiscuity, and low economic status.

a. The Factor of Broken Home

Broken homes can be a contributing factor to early marriage at MA NW Keruak. Students from broken homes may have difficulty building healthy relationships with their parents or other family members. This can lead to students feeling unstable and seeking stability in other relationships, such as early marriage. Lack of attention and affection from parents can make students feel insecure and seek attention from their partners. Students from broken homes may have unstable life experiences, making them more likely to seek stability in early marriage.

b. The Factor of Promiscuity

Promiscuity can also be a contributing factor to early marriage at MA NW Keruak. Students involved in promiscuity may be more likely to engage in unhealthy relationships, leading to early marriage. Promiscuity can cause students to lose moral and ethical values, making them more likely to enter unhealthy relationships. Students involved in promiscuity may have unbalanced life experiences, making them more likely to seek stability in early marriage.

c. The Factor of Low economic

Low economic conditions can also be a factor causing early marriage in MA NW Keruak. Students who come from low-income families may feel that early marriage can be a solution to improve their economic status. Families with lower economic levels may have limited access to better education and economic opportunities, so students feel that early marriage could be a better option. Students who come from low-income families may have pressure to help their families economically, so they are more likely to marry early and earn a living.

Early marriage can be caused by various factors, such as low family economics, limited level of education, and cultural traditions that are still strong in certain areas. One important factor that worsens this condition is inadequate education, which causes teenagers to be trapped in a cycle of poverty and early marriage so that society can give birth to a generation with limited growth, known as stunting (Susilawati, 2022).

2. Efforts of Islamic High School to Address Early Marriage

Efforts of Islamic High School to address early marriage include implementing character education theory. Character education is a crucial approach to preventing early marriage. Through character education, students are taught moral values, ethics, and

responsibility. Madrasahs can introduce concepts such as maturity, mental and physical readiness for raising a family, and the importance of education in preventing early marriage, which is often characterized by unpreparedness.

Efforts of Islamic High School to address early marriage include acting as agents of social empowerment, providing insight into women's rights, gender equality, and the impact of early marriage on social and economic life. By providing education that emphasizes gender equality and strengthening women's capacities, madrasahs can reduce the rate of early marriage.

Islamic schools have been able to address early marriage by providing psychological and social development for students. They provide career and family life counseling to educate students about mental and social readiness for marriage, as well as the impact of early marriage on their lives, both emotionally and socially (Heri Gunawan, 2019).

Efforts to prevent early marriage and stunting have been identified as being more effective if all stakeholders, including family members, community organizations, and the government, play an active and collaborative role in providing education and understanding of the impacts of early marriage (Levani et al., 2024).

Early marriage is a complex issue and has a significant impact on the lives of individuals, families, and communities. At MA NW Keruak, the madrasah has made efforts to address early marriage through home visits and education/counseling. In this analysis, we will discuss the madrasah's efforts to address early marriage at MA NW Keruak through home visits and education/counseling

a. Home Visit

Home visits are one of the efforts of Islamic High School to address early marriage at MA NW Keruak. By conducting home visits, madrasah teachers and staff can interact directly with students and their families, thereby understanding their conditions and needs. Home visits can increase family awareness about the impact of early marriage and the importance of education for their children, build good relationships between madrasah teachers and staff with students' families, thereby increasing trust and cooperation in addressing early marriage, and help madrasah teachers and staff identify students at risk of early marriage, so that appropriate interventions can be carried out.

b. Education or counseling

Education or counseling is one of the efforts of Islamic High School to address early marriage in MA NW Keruak. By conducting education or counseling, students and their families can understand the impact of early marriage and the importance of education. Increasing student knowledge: Education/counseling can increase students' knowledge about the impact of early marriage and the importance of education, so they can make the right decisions, Build students' awareness of the importance of delaying marriage and continuing education, so they can have better life goals, and can help students develop the skills needed to make the right decisions and overcome the problems they face.

c. Early Marriage Education Program

Marriage education programs are implemented by providing social and emotional development theories to help adolescents understand that marrying too young can hinder their personal growth. This education can emphasize the importance of self-discovery and self-understanding before making major decisions like marriage.

Reproductive health education for adolescents is crucial to preventing early marriage, which can increase health risks for young women, including complications during pregnancy and childbirth. Early marriage education should teach adolescents about reproductive health and the medical consequences of early marriage.

Early marriage education programs can be implemented using a social learning model, where adolescents are provided with examples of individuals who have successfully navigated life without marrying too young. These inspiring success stories demonstrate the importance of continuing education and achieving broader life goals before marriage (Deri Firmansyah et al., 2022).

The early marriage education program at MA NW Keruak is one effort to address early marriage among students. This program includes outreach on reproductive health education, women's rights, the negative impacts of early marriage, counseling and guidance, as well as supervision and monitoring of students at risk of early marriage or who have already married.

1) Reproductive Health Education Socialization

Reproductive health education socialization is an important component of the early marriage education program at MA NW Keruak. By understanding reproductive health,

students can better understand how to maintain their reproductive health and avoid the risks associated with early marriage. Improving student knowledge: Reproductive health education socialization can improve students' knowledge about reproductive health and how to maintain their reproductive health. Reducing health risks: By understanding reproductive health, students can reduce the health risks associated with early marriage, such as unwanted pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections.

2) Socialization of Women's Rights

Socialization of women's rights is an important component of the early marriage education program at MA NW Keruak. By understanding women's rights, students can have a better understanding of how to treat women fairly and respect their rights. Raising student awareness: Socialization of women's rights can raise students' awareness of the importance of respecting women's rights and treating them fairly. Reducing discrimination: By understanding women's rights, students can reduce discrimination against women and treat them more fairly.

3) Negative Impacts of Early Marriage

Dissemination of information about the negative impacts of early marriage is an important component of the early marriage education program at MA NW Keruak. By understanding the negative impacts of early marriage, students can better understand how to avoid early marriage and choose a better life path. Increasing student awareness: Dissemination of information about the negative impacts of early marriage can increase students' awareness of the importance of delaying marriage and continuing their education. Reducing early marriage rates: By understanding the negative impacts of early marriage, students can reduce the number of early marriages and choose a better life path.

4) Counseling and Guidance

Counseling and guidance are important components of the early marriage education program at MA NW Keruak. Through counseling and guidance, students have the opportunity to discuss their problems and get the help they need. Improving student well-being: Counseling and guidance can improve students' well-being and help them overcome the problems they face. Reducing the risk of early marriage: Through counseling and guidance, students can reduce the risk of early marriage and choose a better life path.

5) Supervision and Monitoring

Supervision and monitoring are important components of the early marriage education program at MA NW Keruak. Through supervision and monitoring, the madrasah can identify students at risk of early marriage or who have already married and provide them with the assistance they need.

CONCLUSION

From the results of the research that has been done, several conclusions can be drawn: Early marriage that occurs in MA NW Keruak is caused by several factors including broken homes or incomplete family environments, promiscuity, unhealthy environmental influences and low economic factors, these factors can influence student behavior and cause them to choose to marry early. The efforts of the madrasah in overcoming early marriage in MA NW Keruak are by carrying out several activities, namely homeroom teachers conduct home visits to monitor student activities and understand their conditions, homeroom teachers also approach students and guardians to understand their needs and problems and the madrasah also provides early marriage education to students to increase awareness and understanding of the importance of delaying early marriage. The early marriage education program carried out by the madrasah has several programs including providing socialization about reproductive health education and women's rights to students, the negative impacts of early marriage, Counseling and Guidance, as well as conducting supervision and monitoring of students who are at risk of early marriage or who have married early.

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