**Literature Communication Health Reproductive Education of Youth in Anticipation of Early Marriage**

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**Abstract**

The high number of cases of early marriage in Bantul raises its problems. Communication literacy adolescent reproductive health is still low, so the researchers conducted this study. Research on communication literacy, adolescent reproductive health, education aims to: knowing the knowledge of adolescent reproductive education in Sorowajan, Bantul. Second, the researcher wants to provide literacy in reproductive education health communication for adolescents in Sorowajan, Bantul. This research method is descriptive qualitative, by conducting interviews and Focus Group Discussions with the youth of Bantul's Sorowajan Village According to the study's findings, many teenagers who marry at a young age do so due to a lack of knowledge about adolescent reproductive health, poverty, and a lack of education. The government has carried out adolescent reproductive education through several programs, including the National Family Planning Coordinating Board (BKKBN) which has established Youth Family Development (BKR) groups whose targets are families with teenage children. Academics need to help the government carry out communication literacy on adolescent reproductive health, which in this case the researcher and the team have already done it.

*Keywords:* Early Marriage, Health Communication Literacy, Adolescent Reproduction

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**INTRODUCTION**

This study was done based on the researcher's concern because there were many early marriages among teenagers, especially Sorowajan village kab. Bantul. This marriage is motivated by sex outside of marriage, the influence of the environment and friends, and the influence of the media is so strong.

Marriage dispensation or commonly called early marriage is quite high in Bantul Regency. The Bantul Regency Religious Court noted that from January to August there were 152 cases of marriage dispensation (Ari, 2020).

The phenomenon of early marriage in Indonesia is common. The term early marriage is not known in the Marriage Law No. 1/1974, but in Article 7 of the Marriage Law, marriage is only permitted when a man is 19 years old and a woman is 16 years old. Because of the many problems that arise from early marriage, the government made changes to the marriage law. Law Number 16 of 2019 concerning Amendments to Law Number 1 of 1974 concerning Marriage. According to Law Number 16 of 2019 marriage is only permitted if a man and a woman have reached the age of 19 (nineteen) years *(Law 16 of 2019 concerning Amendments to Law 1 of 1974 concerning Marriage | Jogloabang, nd)*.

The number of child marriages in Indonesia is still very popular. Of all ASEAN member countries, Indonesia is in second place. In 2018, of the total 627 million Indonesian population, 11.2% of women were married at the age of 20-24 years. While the marriage of women who are less than 17 years old is 4.8%. Child marriages under the age of 16 were 1.8% and the percentage of marriages less
than 15 years was 0.6%. Collectively, one in nine girls under the age of 18 marry young (Azzahra, 2019).

Early marriage is inextricably linked to a number of influencing factors. Among them are factors of tradition or custom in a region that have been passed down from generation to generation and regard marriage at the age of children as natural. In Indonesian society, parents are embarrassed because their daughter is not married if she does not find a mate right away. Similarly, children's exploitative culture renders children powerless to oppose the will of adults, both their parents who want the marriage and those who marry (Istiqomah, 2014: 84). Another more complicated factor is that promiscuity of pregnant girls out of wedlock is considered a "accidence." This last factor is an important point in this research.

This study focuses on early marriage in Sorowajan adolescents, Bantul Regency, DI Yogyakarta. Even though it is known as the City of Students, Yogyakarta still has complicated population issues, especially those related to early marriage. A result of promiscuity, lack of knowledge about reproductive health, increasingly vulgar media content exposing pornography and reproduction, as well as a lack of religious understanding have caused promiscuity among teenagers to become commonplace.

Bantul Regency has a high rate of early marriage which is classified as high. The number of underage marriages or early marriages in Bantul Regency has increased in recent years. Data from the Office of the Ministry of Religion Bantul shows the number of early marriages in 2016 was 86 marriages, 2017 there were 68 marriages, 2018 recorded 81 marriages, and 2019 until the end of September recorded 52 marriages. Marriage due to 'unavailability' is the impact of promiscuity supported by technological advances, such as cellphones as a means of dating, TV shows that are not educational and are imitated on the negative side, videos that should only be watched by adults but can be freely viewed by students or teenagers. They want to try like in video shows and others. Including a lack of parental supervision. If the child has graduated from high school but is unable to continue to college, early marriage is chosen and his parents are allowed to do so (Ivan, 2019).

The application for marriage dispensation from the Bantul Regency Religious Court has increased. The increase occurred in 2020. The Junior Registrar of Laws at the Bantul Regency Religious Court, Yusma Dewi, said that in 2019 there were 125 applications. This figure has almost doubled in 2020, reaching 246 (wardhani, 2021).

In Sorowajan village, based on the results of an initial interview with Mrs. Nurfaida as the administrator of the Sorowajan KB Village Working Group (pokja), Bantul, in 2018 there were about 20 teenagers who became pregnant before marriage. In 2019 there were about 23 cases of teenagers getting pregnant before marriage, while in 2020 there were around 25 cases of teenagers getting pregnant before marriage (interview on March 2021).

The problem stated above is necessary for researchers to carry out literacy communication on reproductive health education for adolescents to suppress the growth of the number of early marriages for adolescents in Sorowajan, Bantul district.

Communication literacy of adolescent reproductive health education is a solution to the problem of high adolescent free reproductive behavior which has an impact on early marriage, especially in Sorowajan village, kec. Bantul.

The purpose of this study is first, the researcher wants to know the knowledge of adolescent reproductive education in Sorowajan, Bantul. Second, the researcher wants to provide literacy in reproductive education health communication for adolescents in Sorowajan, Bantul.

This research provides theoretical benefits that can enrich studies of communication literacy in adolescent reproductive health education. Academically, it can enrich the treasury of research and studies in Communication Science, especially regarding the issue of literacy, communication, health,
adolescent reproductive education. Practically it can be an input to solve problems rooted in the rampant free reproduction of adolescents which results in early marriage.

LITERATURE REVIEW

National Institute for Literacy, defines Literacy as "an individual's ability to read, write, speak, calculate and solve problems at skills needed in work, family and community. "This definition defines Literacy from a more contextual perspective. This definition implies that the definition of Literacy depends on the skills needed in a particular environment

Literacy means a person's ability to process and understand information while doing the reading and writing process. In its development, the definition of literacy always evolves according to the challenges of the times. In the past, literacy was defined as the ability to read and write. Currently, the term Literacy has begun to be used in a broader sense. And it has penetrated cultural practices related to social and political issues

In the effort to interpret literacy and learning, the new definition of literacy demonstrates a new paradigm. Literacy now has many different meanings, such as media literacy, computer literacy, scientific literacy, school literacy, and so on. Understanding, engaging, using, analyzing, and transforming texts are the five verbs that capture the essence of critical literacy in a democratic society. They all refer to competencies or abilities that go beyond the ability to read and write.

Literacy, according to the Education Development Center (EDC), is more than just the ability to read and write. However, literacy is more than that. It is the ability of individuals to use all of their potential and skills in life. With the understanding that literacy includes the ability to read words as well as the ability to read the world.

According to UNESCO, academic research, institutions, national contexts, cultural values, and experiences all have a strong influence on people’s understanding of the meaning of literacy. Literacy is most commonly understood as a set of tangible skills – specifically, the cognitive skills of reading and writing – that are independent of the context in which they were acquired and from whom they were acquired.

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Overview of Health Communication

As the name implies, the concept of health communication is rooted in two concepts, namely communication and health itself. Communication comes from the Latin communicatus which means "to share" or "to belong together", confirming that the purpose of doing so is to share in togetherness. Basically and simply, communication is the process of delivering or sharing messages from one party to another to get a common understanding of something in the message.

While the notion of health comes from the word healthy and can be interpreted broadly, both physically and mentally healthy. Gochman and De Clercq explain that health can be very broad and quite difficult to define, which can also be interpreted as having biomedical, personal, and sociocultural components. This can also mean that health is a condition or condition where a person is free from all physical ailments and is also viewed from a mental or emotional point of view which is indeed more difficult to see and observe with the naked eye. Based on these two concepts, it can be concluded that Health communication is the process of delivering messages containing health-related information from the sender to the recipient via various media that are deemed appropriate. The primary goal of conveying this message is to guide complete health, both physically and spiritually, in order to support the achievement of human behavior for social welfare. Health communication
messages are unquestionably more focused and specialized than general communication messages, which typically cover major health issues and how to penjajagaan the right for public health (pakar komunikiasi.com, 2017).

**Adolescent Reproductive Education Overview**

Along with the development of adolescents both physically, psychologically, and socially, adolescents try to find and try and want to be recognized for their identity (Davidson & Neale, 1990). If at that time teenagers did not get or even received direction from their parents, it was feared that there would be trying and imitating behavior that was not following the rules of society. One example is the recent news in the mass media about ‘free sex’, ‘pill koplo’, ‘porn VCD’ and the increasing percentage of youth in prostitution lokalisasi (Helmi & Paramastri, 1998:26).

The description of the number of free sex and underage sex is thought to be partly because they do not understand healthy sexual behavior. This is of course related to the lack of disclosure of information about true and healthy sex in society, there is even a tendency to let sex be considered immoral and taboo if it is discussed openly (Martin, 1992). Information media that are spread in society, both through media and media mass electronic, become a reference for teenagers about sex. Sexuality is more of a multidimensional phenomenon consisting of biological, psychosocial, behavioral, clinical, moral, and cultural aspects (Masters, Johnson, & Kolodny, 1992).

The behavioral approach to sex explains that sexual behavior is a product of biological and psychosocial forces. Behavior is not only studying what humans do but also understanding how and why humans behave. In this case, the term normal or abnormal should not be used, but rather the behavior that is less or excessive or inappropriate.

The clinical approach emphasizes sex as a natural function. Physical problems (illness, infection, or medication) can affect sexual response patterns. Likewise, psychological problems (anxiety, sin, shame, depression, or conflict) can interfere with sexuality.

Cultural approaches to sex sometimes cause conflict, but relatively depending on time, place, and circumstances. Morals and rights differ greatly from the cultural background. Likewise, the myth is that women are passive and accepting, while men are more active and aggressive.

Sexual education is an effort to educate and direct sexual behavior properly and correctly. That is sexual behavior that emphasizes physical and psychological aspects will lead to or result in healthy sex for both self and others (Widjanarko, 1994). In addition, sexual health problems are also given, which are often associated with various diseases caused by sexual intercourse or commonly known as sexually transmitted diseases (PHS). Various STDs include gonorrhea, syphilis, chlamydial infections, chancroid, genital herpes, viral hepatitis, genital warts, molluscum contagiosum, public lice, and vaginai infections (Master, Johnson & Kolodny, 1992).

The results of research conducted by Zelnik and Kim (1982) show that if parents are willing to discuss sex with their children, their children tend to delay premarital sexual behavior. Likewise, Fisher’s (1986) research shows that adolescents tend to imitate the behavior of their parents. However, it is unfortunate that the information obtained through the mass media is sometimes only fragmentary and generally only emphasizes sex narrowly. Though the problem of sex is not as simple and narrow as that.

Research conducted by Bennett and Dickinson (1980) states that most teenagers choose to receive early parental sexual education, but because parents do not know or even explain in detail, adolescents seek information from groups or anywhere. Likewise, the results of research conducted by Kallen, Stephenson, and Doughty (1983) showed that most adolescents received information about sex through their friends and not through their parents. However, it is different from the results of research by Bennett & Dickinson (1980) and research by Fisher (1986) which states that providing information about sex from parents is not necessarily better than information from other sources.
Concerning early sexual education, there are several techniques for providing information on healthy sexual behavior. In this case, the researcher created three kinds of information-giving techniques, namely through lectures, brochures, and discussions (Helmi & Paramastri, 1998:26).

**RESEARCH METHODS**

This research is descriptive qualitative research. Data source informant and Fill-charge(contains) from a variety of relevant media. Data collection in the research was carried out: first, with content analysis/document analysis. Walizer and Wienir (1978) defined content analysis as a systematic discovery procedure to examine the content of recorded/written information. Content analysis in this study was used to obtain data in the form of types and contents of relevant media/documents. Second, in-depth interviews Dexter defines interviews in qualitative research as a conversation with a purpose (Lincoln and Guba, 1985:268). The interviews were conducted with youth in the village of Sorowajan, Bantul. Third, the researcher conducted a Focused Group Discussion with the youth of the village of Sorowajan, Bantul. The purpose of interviews in qualitative research is to obtain what is called the here-and-now constructions of the people as actors and the problem under study; to events, activities, feelings, motivations, concerns, procedures, habits, structures, patterns, and so on. Interviews are also used to reconstruct past social practices. In addition to these two things, interviews are also used to make projections, especially regarding expectations in the future. Third, observation is used to see data sources in the form of locations and events. This research is to visit the residence of early marriage couples in Bantul. Fourth, Focused Group Discussion (FGD), Focused Group Discussion is an effort to understand the opinion of the informants in the form of discussions directed at certain topics. In this study, there is a discussion in a forum about ethnic prejudice, where participants are from various ethnicities following the direction of the study.

Cross-site analysis will be used as an analysis technique. An interactive analysis model will be used in each case. The three components of the analysis, namely data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawing on verification, are carried out in an interactive forum with the data collection process as a cyclical process in this analysis model (Sutopo, 2002).

**FINDING AND DISCUSSION**

The law governing marriage in Indonesia is contained in Law No. 1 of 1974, which states that marriage is an inner and outer bond between a man and a woman as husband and wife in order to form a happy and eternal family based on God Almighty. Marriage is only permitted if the man is at least 19 years old and the woman is at least sixteen years old, according to Marriage Law Chapter II Article 7 paragraph 1. The policy of the government in establishing the minimum age for marriage has undoubtedly gone through a process and various considerations. This is done to ensure that both parties are physically, psychologically, and mentally prepared. It’s f. However, in practice in society in general there are still many who get married at a young age or are underage. Nationally, early marriage under the age of 16 is 26.95%. Based on findings from Bappenas in 2008 it was stated that 34.5% of 2,049,000 marriages in 2008 were underage marriages.1 Whereas the ideal marriage age for women is 21-25 years, while for men it is 25-28 years. Because at that age the reproductive organs of women have developed well and are strong, and psychologically they are considered mature to become prospective parents for their children. While the physical and psychological conditions of men at that age are also strong so that they can support family life and protect it psychologically, emotionally, economically, and socially.

In Sorowjan Village, Bantul, early marriage is common. This can be seen from the number of early marriages in Bantul. The Religious Courts (PA) of Bantul noted that the application for marriage dispensation for early marriage was quite high. Data from the Bantul PA records that from 2021 to March there have been 18 dispensation applications, 15 of which have been terminated. This number
is quite significant compared to 2020, where at that time there were 246 applications for marriage dispensation. Meanwhile, in 2019 the number of marriage dispensations was only 125 (Snapshot, nd).

What's the real problem with this early marriage? Early marriage has a positive side and a negative side. Early marriage occurs in Indonesia under the guise of avoiding slander or having sex outside of marriage. For financial reasons, some parents marry off their adolescent children. By marrying a daughter, parents’ burden of child support is reduced because the daughter will be the responsibility of her husband after marriage. Children who are married are expected to have a better life. In addition, legally married at a young age to prevent teenagers from sex outside of marriage, or free sex with multiple partners. So that teenagers are more awake from deviant behavior. However, if the child drops out of school or has a low level of education, the poverty cycle will be extended. The practice of early marriage is also more prevalent in the lower middle class. There is also the strong influence of the media that broadcasts sex and pornographic content.

According to dr. Adrian Kevin, because early marriage is not the only solution. Early marriage can have unintended consequences. The following are some of the reasons why early marriage should be avoided (Adrian, 2018):

**The risk of sexual disease increases**

Sexual intercourse is required in a marriage. When a person under the age of 18 engages in sexual intercourse, they are more likely to contract sexually transmitted diseases such as HIV. This is due to the fact that knowledge about healthy and safe sex is still limited.

**The risk of increased sexual violence**

According to studies, women who marry before the age of 18 are more likely to face violence from their partners than women who marry as adults. The reason for this is that at this age, combined with a lack of knowledge and education, a young woman will be sexually abused. It is more difficult for them to refuse sex, and they are often powerless to do so. Although early marriage was originally intended to protect against sexual violence, the reality is quite the opposite. The risk of violence increases, especially as the age gap between husband and wife grows wider.

**Risk of increased pregnancy**

Pregnancy at a young age is difficult and often fruitful. Rows of risks that may occur are not to be taken lightly and can be hazardous to both the mother and the fetus. The risk in the fetus is that the baby is born prematurely and with a low birth weight. Babies can also have growth and development issues because they are at a higher risk of developing disorders from birth, as well as a lack of parental knowledge in caring for them. Meanwhile, mothers who are still in their teens are at a higher risk of anemia and preeclampsia. This condition will have an impact on fetal development. If preeclampsia has progressed to eclampsia, this condition will harm the mother and fetus and can even result in death.

**Risk of experiencing psychological problems**

Not only are physical consequences more likely in women who marry in their teens, but mental and psychological disorders are also more likely. Several studies have found that the younger a woman is when she marries, the greater her risk of developing mental disorders later in life, such as anxiety disorders, mood disorders, and depression.

**Risk of having a low social and economic level**

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a woman is when she marries, the greater her risk of developing mental disorders later in life, such as anxiety disorders, mood disorders, and depression.

In Bantul youth, the researcher conducted a Focus Group Discussion. Some teenagers already know the dangers of early marriage, and others do not know the negative impact of early marriage. From the results of interviews, teenagers who do not know this negative impact, already have a lover. Some of them are married and even have children. When did the researchers ask whether their parents allowed them to date? They said their parents allowed it as long as they could take care of themselves. But in reality, many teenagers can’t control themselves when they’re alone with their lovers. Education level is also important in literacy adolescent reproductive education. Many teenagers are not literate because of low education. Some have only graduated from Junior High School (SMP), and some have reached Senior High School (SMA). Meanwhile, who reach only a few universities.

Efforts to educate reproductive health through the family have been carried out by the government through several programs, including the National Family Planning Coordinating Board (BKKBN) which has established Family Development Youth groups whose targets are families with teenage children. However, from the government programs that have been implemented, there are still many obstacles encountered in the field, including communication between parents and adolescents is still weak. The strong influence of the internet, as well as the strong influence of the environment. Thus, it is very important to provide health communication literacy for adolescents. The aim is for teenagers to understand that early marriage can have an impact on the risk of pregnancy at a young age and can have an impact on the economic family. In addition to the government, academics also need to help the government carry out communication literacy. Adolescent reproductive health is increasingly important. Researchers with the team conducted communication education on health adolescent reproductive, especially adolescents in Sorowajan Village, Bantul. Adolescents who were originally not literate, after being given education on reproductive health communication became understanding and understanding.

CONCLUSION

According to the findings of this study, adolescents are an important national asset that must be safeguarded. Adolescents as the nation’s successors need to get proper education, including reproductive health communication education. This is done to suppress the occurrence of early marriage. Early marriage brings both positive impacts and negative. Positive impact, avoiding slander, avoiding teenagers from sex outside of marriage, or free sex by changing partners. So that teenagers are more awake from deviant behavior. If a child drops out of school or has a low level of education, the poverty cycle will be extended. The government has carried out adolescent reproductive education through several programs, including the National Family Planning Coordinating Board which has established Youth Family Development groups whose targets are families with teenage children. Academics need to help the government carry out communication literacy on adolescent reproductive health, which in this case the researcher and the team have already done it.

Suggestions for further researchers can develop similar research with different locations such as in Sleman Regency. Future researchers can use different methods. The limitation of this study is that the COVID-19 pandemic has prevented researchers from moving freely to search for further data.

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