



EXPERIENCE OF EARLY MARRIED ADOLESCENTS: A STUDY OF PHENOMENOLOGY

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ABSTRACT

The phenomenon of early married that occurs among adolescents has caused controversy and has had a major psychological and health impact. This is due to the youth's unpreparedness physically and mentally. This research design using qualitative methods and phenomenology study approach. As much five participant couples who married early were participated. Data were collected by using in-depth interview techniques, field notes, and voice recorders, then made in the form of interview transcripts. The research was conducted in Sembubuk village of Muaro Jambi regency. Data were analysed using Colaizi's method. The results study revealed, there were four themes, namely the factors that cause early marriage are economic factors and promiscuity. The feeling response experienced is accept and reject. The coping strategy used is planful problem solving and escape avoidance. The family support were emotional support. The early marriage experience of adolescent was getting married at an early age is a marriage experience that they once regretted and did not expect and a difficult journey that changes the whole life of adolescent, and realizes the importance of adolescence before marriage. Based on these findings, it was advisable for couples who early married to keep surveillance and adapt to their conditions, as well as for nurses to increase health promotion efforts related to early married impact.

Keyword : Experience, early marriage

INTRODUCTION

The phenomenon of young marriage still occurs in various places in the world. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in 2018 estimated that around 21% of young women were married as children. Early marriages are marriages that are carried out officially or unofficially before the age of 18 (UNICEF, 2014).

The case of marriage at an early age in Indonesia is increasingly concerning, according to the 2015 National Socio-Economic Survey (SUSENAS), as many as 1 in 4 girls under the age of 18 have been married, in 2017 2 out of 5 girls aged 10-17 have been married. In 2018, out of a total of 627 million Indonesians, 11.2 percent of women were married aged 20-24. Meanwhile, the marriage for women

who were less than 17 years old was 4.8 percent. Marriage of children under 16 years of age is around 1.8 percent and the percentage of child marriages under 15 years of age is 0.6 percent. Accumulated, one in nine girls younger than 18 years of age marry young. Currently, there are 1.2 million cases of child marriage, which puts Indonesia in 8th place in the world in terms of child marriage rates globally, and second in Asean countries. (BKKBN, 2020).

According to Nailaufar and Kristiana (2017), In accordance with the provisions of Law No.1 of 1974 concerning Marriage, marriage at a young age among adolescents in Indonesia is not allowed and parents are obliged to protect their children from early marriages, in reality, many early marriages occur. Child marriage is a form of violence against



children. Children who are forced to marry or because of certain conditions must marry under the age of 18 years will have greater vulnerability in terms of access to education, quality of health, the potential to experience violence, and live in poverty.

The impact of child marriage will not only be experienced by children who are married off, but will also have an impact on children born and have the potential to create intergenerational poverty. Pau, Joseph, Ijeoma (2013) stated that the impact of someone getting married at a young age is instability in marriage, reduced health, less ability to solve problems properly, decreased school participation, and has an impact on children's welfare.

Some of the factors that encourage young marriage include poverty, education, economy, culture. The results of research and survey by Agege, et al (2018) regarding early marriage, 63% of respondents strongly agree that early marriage is considered a marriage that is less than 18 years old, besides that it is also concluded that ignorance has accidentally caused girls not getting your full attention, so that the lifestyle leads to an uncultured / free lifestyle, which causes pregnancy before marriage.

Handayani's research (2014) revealed that the rate of early marriage is very high, due to a few things: the young women who are knowledgeable lower, 2.3 times more likely to commit early marriage than high knowledgeable, as well as the factors most at risk is when the parents are not working or factor the economy.

Early marriage in young women must face many environmental and social problems so that they must be able to adapt or adjust to the conditions of their marriage (Shabbir, Nisar & Fatima, 2015). The results of research conducted by Candika, et al (2019) has been found six

themes. The researcher describes the participants' self-adjustment in terms of several aspects, namely the participant's emotional control, psychological mechanisms, personal frustration, the ability to learn, realistic and objective attitudes as well as rational consideration and self-direction. Research conducted by Nailaufar and Kristiana (2017), they divide three themes for the two subjects, the three themes are: before marriage, marriage, and divorce. The theme before marriage tells when the subject meets his girlfriend, the response from the family to the subject's relationship with the boyfriend. The theme of being married tells what experiences or experiences during marriage, how to play a role as a parent and a role as husband or wife, respond to conflicts that occur, interpret the meaning of marriage. The theme of divorce tells of the condition of the subject being divorced from a partner, future plans according to divorce. Other researchers conducted by Qoniah and Karyono (2016), they were shown three themes in marriage, namely marrying in subjects one and two are indeed harmonious, having a complete family, although sometimes disputes occur with partners, but can be resolved properly. The demands of being a mother and wife require that the subject be more mature than his age.

Sembubuk Village which is located in Muaro Jambi Regency cases of early marriage occur from year to year. In Sembubuk Village, there are still many people who do not understand and do not understand the actual age limit of marriage. Not yet knowing the impact of this early marriage. Due to a lack of knowledge and many other reasons for the community to marry in their teens, namely because of matchmaking, pregnancy outside of marriage, and of their own will.

Based on the description of the data and



the problems above, a research was conducted with the title " Experience of Early Married Adolescent : A Study of Phenomenology "

METHODS

a. Research Design

This research is a descriptive study , using a qualitative phenomenological approach , to study the experiences of couples who marry at an early age by focusing on the meaning or meaning of early marriage. The underlying phenomena are the reasons for getting married at an early age, physical and psychological changes and family support when the couple at an early age undergoes their marriage.

b. Population and Sample

Population and sample The population in this study were couples who were married at an early age in Sembubuk village, with a purposive sampling technique. The focus of qualitative research is on depth and process, so this study involved 5 participants (Poerwandari, 2005). This research was conducted from April to July 2020.

c. Research Instrument

In this study, the researcher is part of the research instrument. Data collection was carried out by in-depth interviews conducted on participants to explore more about the experience of early marriage.

In-depth interviews were conducted 3 times with an interview guide (interview guidance), using open-ended interviews. Field notes (the Notes field) is also made to better ensure the achievement of a comprehensive and accurate description. (Streubert & Carpenter, 1999).

d. Data analysis

Data analysis was carried out by documenting data from in-depth interviews and field notes obtained after each time collecting data from participants. Data analysis in a qualitative study is based on interpreting the data. Researchers interpret any information obtained from participants and conclude some information that is in accordance with the research objectives. Processing and analysis includes making transcripts from interviews and field notes, reading transcripts, making categorization, determining categories, formulating themes, theme clusters, complete descriptions and final analysis reports.

RESULT

a. Characteristics of Participants

The age at which the participants got married was 15 to 17 years old, the current age of the participants was between 20 and 23 years and lived in Sembubuk village. Participants' marriage ages ranged from 2 to 5 years. Their educational backgrounds are 1 graduated from high school, 3 did not complete high school and 1 graduated from junior high school. All of the participants' occupations are housewives. Status wedding participants, 4 participants were married and one participant is separated.

b. Analysis Results

Thematic Analysis

1. Factors Causing Early Marriage

Participants revealed the factors that caused them to marry at an early age due to arranged marriage,



premarital pregnancy and frequent sex because of promiscuity, as revealed by the participants below:
"At that time I was arranged with my parents ..."

"You know, the reason I married young was because, I was pregnant first (shy smile) .."

"... we used to dating....often go out at night, sometimes we play at boyfriends house, we have been to motels too.... doing things (laughs embarrassed) ..."

2. Participant Feelings Response

Response feeling of the participants were married in u it early, found two responses that reject and accept. Two out of five participants had a response to refuse, indicated by distrust and regret and a household burden. The response of the participants in refusing was expressed as follows ...

"... I regret the past, ..."

"... it's actually very embarrassed, scared that our parents will be mockso only family knows the marriage..."

"... before marriage there were no burdens, different from being married, before marriage, there was no responsible take care of the household like now ... if now you want to go you have to go three .."

Apart from refusing, three of the participants accepted the current situation. The response to the acceptance of participants is indicated by an expression of pleasure, being able to be alone, and someone is accompanying. The participant's expressions are as follows :

"... At the very beginning ... it was

*nice, he take a good care of me
"... aa im feeling I'm happy when we have already married. My husband is happy too. know it is free if you go alone and someone accompanies you..."*

3. Married Couples Coping Strategies in U drain Early

Coping strategies efforts made by couples who are married at an early age in undergoing their marriage 4

participants have adaptive coping strategies that are to accept, be grateful, be patient with each other, give in to each other, speak well, as conveyed by the participants below:

"... Alhamdulillah now I can accept ... grateful , patient, so if there is a problem faced with a cold head ..."

"....there are also arguing with parents, to solve the problem we speak carefully..with a cold head, not with emotion..."

Meanwhile, one participant has a maladaptive coping strategy, which is choosing to separate from his partner, the participant's expression is as follows:

"... yet childish, yet unstable, so stubborn, unruly, can not be united again, the family also has resigned, finally after birth, we divorced....."

4. Family support

The results of in-depth interviews with five participants indicated that many families support and continue to help their families who are married. The family does not deny the existence of the remaining teenagers who live with them. Many families were initially disappointed and refused but finally the family accepted. The family always supports by praying



and always giving words of encouragement as expressed below:

"... Alhamdulillah ... all families are willing to accept ... Mother told me, I will always support, wish you the best,..."

"... like I said ... first parents did not expect, so annoyed by my behavior, You but now well, would accept with our circumstances, right now we still live with our parents. Parents continue to encourage now..."

DISCUSSION

The results of the research show that marriage at an early age is common in Sembubuk villages. This is consistent with research (Sah, 2008), which states that young marriage is influenced by geography (rural / urban). Montazeri S & all's research (2016) shows that marriage at an early age is prone to occur in girls who do not receive education, or who drop out of school and lack information about the impact of early marriage due to living in a rural area. In this study, the participants' age is still very young for marriage, Palamuleni (2011) explains that age, region, education, religion and ethnicity are important factors in determining the age of first marriage. Most of the participants can be classified as having basic education, namely junior high school. The education factor greatly influences the people's mindset, the higher the education, the more rethinking it will be to do marriage at an early age, in contrast to the low level of education. According to research by Fadlyana and Larasaty (2009), the younger the age of marriage, the lower the level of education that individuals will achieve.

The first theme, namely F actors, causes

marriage at an early age, there are 2, namely the first is an arranged marriage because of the economy, parents who cannot afford their children will marry off their children to someone who is more well off. According to Sari (2018), the main factor that causes early marriage is a low economic level, by marrying off their children is one solution for parents to get out of difficulties in making a living. The second factor is the factor of promiscuity and pregnancy outside of marriage. An interesting phenomenon is that premarital sexual intercourse is mostly done by dating teenagers to have casual sex, but some of these facts indicate an alarming and worrying trend. (Jeniwarty & Pieter, 2013) One of the risks of premarital sex or free sex is unwanted pregnancy. Pregnancy that was not planned beforehand can rob teenagers of the "enjoyment" that boys and girls should enjoy (Marmi & Margiyati, 2017).

In addition, the lack of guidance and attention from parents will make children look for ways for their own happiness, with people whose behavior is not seen, so that they fall into promiscuity and get pregnant outside of marriage, which makes parents allow their children to marry at an early age.

The second theme is Participant Feelings Response, there are 2 participant responses, namely rejecting and accepting. Participants who refuse because they feel that their adolescence is lost and embarrassed, this is in accordance with the opinion of Kubler - Ross (1969, in Nursalam 2013) which states that an individual's first reaction to loss is shock. and don't believe it. While the participants who accept it because it is in accordance with the wishes of the participants. Desire itself is a factor that is very difficult to avoid, because men and women think they love each other



even regardless of age, and future problems faced in a marriage. (Widya Y, 2019).

The third theme of this research is the coping strategies used by couples who are married at an early age, which is illustrated in how to overcome problems caused by their young marriage. Based on the results of the study, it was found that the five participants used coping strategies, namely *problem focused coping (an action directed at problem solving)* and *emotional focused coping (efforts that aim to modify emotional function without changing stressors)*. *Problem focused coping* is used in a *planful* form. *problem solving* is shown by being patient, giving in to each other, and speaking well, while *emotional focused coping* is used in the form of *escape avoidance* which is indicated by choosing a divorce. (Lazarus and Folkman, 1984 in Maryam, 2017).

When a couple enters married life, it does not mean that the process of knowing and understanding stops. Sometimes, the early days of marriage are a time of adjustment that makes it difficult for a new married couple because there are often things that have never been imagined before. (Jeniwarty & Pieter, 2013). Especially for couples who get married at an early age, who are still unstable and need efforts from both parties to understand each other, because if the problems in their marriage are not resolved, it will lead to divorce. This is the main thought before getting married at a young age.

The fourth theme is family support, participants said that family support is very important and needed for participants, because family support is support in dealing with the participant's early married life. Parental support is very important because parental support is the first support needed by

participants. Na'im opinion, (2010) Family support is defined as helping people when facing unpleasant conditions in life. According to Rodin and Salovery (1989) in Nursalam (2013) support, especially the context of a close relationship or the quality of marriage and family relationships, is the most important source of support. The family is connected by a very strong bond, anxiety in one family member will affect other family members. In this study, all participants received support from their families, even though at first there was rejection, finally the family accepted and supported the married life of couples who married at this early age.

CONCLUSION

The conclusion of this research is that there are four themes, namely, the factors that cause adolescents to marry at an early age are obtained from economic factors and promiscuity. The psychological response shown when telling her experiences in early marriage was acceptance and rejection. Coping strategies used are *Planful problem solving* and *escape avoidance*. The family support that is obtained for teenagers getting married at an early age comes from the support of their parents. Early marriage Experience is a solution to avoid the things that are not desirable such as pregnant out of wedlock, a solution for finance for their economic loss, and liability promiscuity in doing. According to adolescents the experience of marriage that they experience is a marriage experience that they once regretted and did not expect, is a stressful and traumatic life experience, which changes their entire life so that participants interpreted that adolescence will not be repeated when she has been married.



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