



## YOUTH PERCEPTIONS ABOUT UNDERAGE MARRIAGE

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**Abstract, Background:** Underage marriages are still responded positively by the community where the number of underage marriages is still high in the Jayakarta sub-district. The purpose of the study was to see the determinants of adolescent perceptions of underage marriage.

**Method:** The design of this research is cross sectional. The study population was all young women who were registered as students at SMPN 1 Jayakarta. 1 Jayakarta grade 8 and grade 9 2017. The minimum sample size required is 158 respondents. Sampling was done by stratified random sampling. The analysis used is chi square test, while for multivariate analysis using multiple logistic regression.

**Result:** The results showed that 69% of respondents had a good perception of underage marriage. The results of multivariate analysis show that together there are 3 variables related to perceptions, perceptions of underage marriage compared to respondents who have good knowledge. lack of knowledge. after being determined by the attitude and information variables. Improving health promotion to adolescents through schools, both junior high and high school levels regarding the age of marriage according to health through UKS program activities, namely attitudes, ( $p = 0.007$ , 95% CI: 1.299 - 5.344), information ( $p = 0.010$ , 95% CI: 1.286 - 6.603), and knowledge ( $p = 0.001$ , 95% CI: 1.907–13.249).

**Conclusion:** The most dominant factor related to adolescents' perceptions of underage marriage based on the results of multiple logistic regression analysis is Knowledge with OR = 5.026, meaning that respondents who have good knowledge have 5.026 times the opportunity to have good knowledge.

**Keywords:** underage marriage, adolescent, perception, knowledge, health promotion

### Background

Child marriage is a very serious problem. Romauli and Vindari (2011) state that teenage marriage, in addition to reflecting the low status of women, is also a social tradition that supports high fertility rates. This causes the childbirth period faced by teenage brides to be relatively longer, in addition to the higher risk of childbirth because they are not physically ready to give birth.

The general implication is that women and children will be at risk in various aspects, related to unwanted marriages, forced sexual relations, pregnancy at a very young age, as well as an increased risk of

transmission of HIV infection, other sexually transmitted diseases, neck cancer uterus and complications during childbirth. In addition, women who become pregnant at a young age have a great potential to give birth to children with low birth weight, malnutrition and anemia.

The low level of education in a community can affect the occurrence of early marriage due to a lack of public knowledge about the risks that may occur. A UNICEF literacy study found that the interaction of various factors puts children at risk for early marriage. Economic reasons, the hope of achieving social and financial security after marriage causes many parents to encourage their children to marry at a

young age

The main reason parents do not send their children to school is the cost factor. Because they cannot continue their education, for boys they will help their parents to work (farmers, farm laborers, fishermen and traders) while for girls they tend to get married. So getting married at a young age is not a strange thing. Many marriages of women aged < 18 years are not reported and registered with the KUA. While data from KUA Jayakarta sub-district in 2015, the number of marriages in 2014 with women's marriage age < 18 years was 251 pairs and 132 pairs with women's marriage age < 18 years. Meanwhile, in 2015 with a total of 673 married couples, 107 couples with the age of first marriage in women < 18 years were found (KUA Jayakarta, 2015). Health promotion in schools is an effort to create schools into a community that is able to improve the health status of the school community through 3 main activities (a) creating a healthy school environment, (b) maintenance and services in schools, and (c) continuous education efforts. . These three activities are known as the UKS triad. The School Health Business is one of the units for developing and fostering health programs in the community carried out by the Puskesmas where health activities are carried out and under the supervision of the Jayakarta Health Center work area.

The results of a preliminary survey by researchers show that in Karawang Regency the number of underage marriages is still high. Age of first marriage (<15 years old) in Karawang district is in 7th place (18.9%) with the highest percentage in West Java (<http://www.diskes.jabarprov>).

The phenomenon found is known that underage marriages are still responded positively by the Jayakarta sub-district community. This underlies the need for research that aims to determine the determinants of adolescent perceptions about underage marriage in Jayakarta District, Karawang Regency. Based on this description, the formulation of the research problem is: What are the determinant factors related to adolescent perceptions of underage marriage in Jayakarta District, Karawang Regency?

## Method

The design of this study was cross sectional (cross-sectional). The study was

conducted in the Jayakarta sub-district, Karawang regency, this place was chosen because the Jayakarta sub-district has a high number of underage marriages. While the research location was carried out at SMPN 1 Jayakarta, the determination of the research location was carried out purposely because the research population was teenagers aged 14-16 years, so the selection of SMPN (schools) was aimed at facilitating research data collection.

The study population was all young women who were registered as students at SMPN 1 Jayakarta grade 8 and grade 9 in 2016 who met the inclusion criteria. The total population is 317 female students. The samples taken as research respondents are those who have met the inclusion and exclusion criteria, namely as follows: Inclusion criteria:

- a. Age between 14 - 16 years.
- b. 8th and 9th grade students
- c. Domiciled in Jayakarta District, Karawang Regency during the data collection period.
- d. Students are in good health

Exclusion criteria:

- a. Students who are not willing to be respondents

Based on the calculation of the formula, the minimum number of samples required is 158 respondents. The sampling method was taken by stratified random sampling. Each class is sampled, to determine the number of samples in each class, it is calculated proportionally and is carried out at simple random by lottery. In detail, the number of samples for each class is shown in the following table 1

Data was collected by distributing questionnaires to respondents, assisted counseling and student teachers. Data analysis was performed using Chi Square test and multiple logistic regression

## Results

It is known that 109 respondents (69%) have a good perception of underage marriage

Respondents who have a positive attitude towards underage marriage, namely there are 119 respondents (75.3%), have high motivation not to marry under the age of 16 years, namely there are 82 respondents (51.9%), did not receive

information about marriage under the age of 16 years namely there are 95 respondents (60.1%), and have good knowledge about marriage under the age of 16 years, namely there are 130 respondents (82.3%),

**Table ; 1** Calculation of the number of samples

Class	Number of Population		Number of samples
Class 8 A	41	=	20
Class 8 B	43	=	21
Class 8 C	42	=	21
Class 8 D	44	=	22
Class 9 A	48	=	24
Class 9 B	31	=	15
Class 9 C	35	=	17
Class 9 D	29	=	14
Total			158

**Table. 2** Frequency Distribution of Respondents Based on Independent Variables In Jayakarta District, Karawang Regency

Variable	Freq (158)	%
Perception:		
1. Good	109	69
2. Not good	49	31
Attitude:		
1. Positive	119	75,3
2. Negative	39	24,7
Motivation:		
1. High	82	51,9
2. Low	76	48,1
Information:		
1. Got	63	39,9
2. No good	95	60,1
Knowledge:		
1. Good	130	82,3
2. Not good	28	17,7

It is known that there is a difference in the proportion of respondents who have a good perception of underage marriage between respondents who have a positive attitude and respondents who have a negative attitude (p value = 0.000, OR: 6.016, CI: 2.75 - 13.14). There is no difference in the proportion of respondents who have a good perception of underage marriage between respondents who have high motivation and respondents who have low motivation (p value: 0.176). There is a difference in the

proportion of respondents who have a good perception of underage marriage between respondents who received information and respondents who did not receive information (p value: 0.034, OR: 2.347, CI: 1.12-4.90). There is a difference in the proportion of respondents who have a good perception of underage marriage between respondents who have good knowledge (p value: 0.000, OR: 5.74, CI: 2.40 – 13.74) (see table 2)

**Table : 3** Distribution of Bivariate Analysis Results in Jayakarta District, Karawang Regency

Researched variables	Perception				Total n		P Value
	Good		not good				
	n (109)	% (69)	n (49)	% (31)	%		
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Attitude:							
1. Positive	94	79	25	21	119	100	0,000
2. Negative	15	38,5	24	61,5	39	100	
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Motivation:							
1. High	61	74,4	21	25,6	82	100	0,176
2. Low	48	63,2	26	36,8	76	100	
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Information:							
1. Good	50	79,4	13	20,6	63	100	0,034
2. No good	59	62,1	36	37,9	95	100	
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Knowledge:							
1. Good	99	76,2	31	23,8	130	100	0,000
2. Not good	10	35,7	18	64,3	28	100	

There is a significant relationship between attitudes and perceptions of adolescents about underage marriage in Jayakarta sub-district, Karawang district, after being controlled by information and knowledge variables. There is a significant relationship between information and adolescent perceptions of underage marriage in Jayakarta sub-district, Karawang district, after being controlled by the attitude and knowledge variables. There is a significant relationship between knowledge and adolescent perceptions of underage marriage in Jayakarta sub-district, Karawang district, after being controlled by information and attitude variables. Knowledge is the most dominant factor associated with adolescent perceptions of underage marriage in Jayakarta sub-district, Karawang district based on the results of the analysis (see Table 3)

**Table 4** Determinant Factors Related to Adolescent Perceptions About Underage Marriage In Jayakarta District, Karawang Regency

Variable	B	Sig	Exp (B)	95% CI For Exp (B)	
				Lower	Upper
Attitude	0,969	0,007	2,635	1,299	5,344
Information	1,069	0,010	2,914	1,286	6,603
Knowledge	1,615	0,001	5,026	1,907	13,249
Constanta	5,849	0,000	0,003		

## Discussion

### Relationship Attitude with Underage Marriage

Attitude is the most dominant factor associated with adolescent perceptions of underage marriage in Jayakarta sub-district, Karawang district. The results of the multiple logistic regression analysis of the predictive model are attitudes with an OR value of 4.75, meaning that respondents who have a positive attitude have a 4.75 times chance to have a good perception of underage marriage compared to respondents who have a negative attitude. after being controlled by information and knowledge variables.

These results are in accordance with the opinion expressed by Miftah Toha (2003), that perception is influenced by two factors including internal factors which include: feelings, attitudes, individual personality, prejudice, desires or expectations, attention (focus), learning process, physical condition, psychiatric disorders, values and needs as well as interests, and motivations.

In perceiving underage marriage, the respondents may differ from one individual to another. Each respondent has a different perception of seeing the same problem or information in different ways. These differences can be influenced by many factors, including attitudes. Perception is also related to a person's perspective on a particular object in different ways by using the senses they have, then trying to interpret it. Both positive and negative perceptions of underage marriage depend on the attitude of the respondent. Attitude is an internal factor

that influences the formation of one's perception in interpreting something. If the respondent has a positive attitude towards underage marriage, then the respondent will have a good perception

### Information Relationship with Underage Marriage

The results of statistical tests on bivariate analysis obtained p value = 0.034 and OR = 2.347 (< 0.05), it can be concluded that there is a difference in the proportion of respondents who have a good perception of underage marriage between respondents who received information and respondents who did not receive information. In other words, there is a significant relationship between information and perception.

According to Notoatmodjo (2007), providing health information about the marriage age maturation program is one form of health education activities. Health education is an activity to create public behavior that is conducive to health. The ultimate goal of health education, in this case providing health information, is so that the public understands the marriage age maturation program, so that if respondents get good enough information from health workers, KUA officers and from their teachers, respondents will have a good perception of underage marriage.

Likewise, according to Miftah Toha (2003), that the information obtained is an external factor in the formation of one's perception of something. The more frequent, clear and complete the information obtained, the better one's perception of something. Likewise with the perception of underage marriage, if the respondent has obtained clear and complete information about the marriage age maturation program, then the respondent will have a good perception of underage marriage. However, the results of the bivariate analysis are not in accordance with the opinion of Notoatmodjo (2007) and the opinion of Miftah Toha (2003) above. Meanwhile, the results of the multivariate analysis show that the information has a significant relationship with the perception of adolescents about underage marriage in Jayakarta sub-district, Karawang district, after being controlled by the variable attitude and knowledge. Respondents who received information had 2,576 times the chance to have a good perception of underage marriages compared to respondents who

were not informed.

These results indicate that if information is analyzed together with attitudes and knowledge, it will increase the strength of the relationship with perception. For this reason, providing information to adolescents (respondents) about the marriage age maturation program, marriage under the age of 16 years, will increase the knowledge and attitudes of respondents so that in the end the respondent's perception will be good towards underage marriage.

### **Knowledge Relationship with Underage Marriage**

The results of the analysis show that there are differences in the proportion of respondents who have a good perception of underage marriage between respondents who have good knowledge and respondents who have sufficient and less knowledge. In other words, there is a significant relationship between knowledge and perception. The results of multivariate analysis showed that knowledge was the most dominant factor influencing adolescent perceptions of underage marriage in Jayakarta sub-district, Karawang district, after being controlled by information and attitude variables. Respondents who have good knowledge have 5,026 times the opportunity to have a good perception of underage marriages compared to respondents who have less knowledge.

Knowledge or cognitive is a very important domain in shaping respondents' perceptions of underage marriage and can shape respondents' actions. The higher the level of one's knowledge, the better one's perception of underage marriage, meaning that one will have the perception that underage marriage is not good. So that the research results are in line with the opinion of Miftah Toha (2003) which says that knowledge is an external factor that affects respondents' perceptions

The results of the research of Priska Pandaleke, Jean H. Raule, Marjes N. Tumurang, found that there was a relationship between knowledge and early marriage in Ratahan Timur District, Southeast Minahasa Regency. The results showed a significance value of  $p = 0.007 < 0.05$ , so there was a relationship between knowledge and early marriage in Ratahan Timur District.

The respondent's knowledge greatly influences the perception of underage marriage, if the respondent knows about the impact or risk that will occur if married under 16 years of age, the impact that may occur either for himself or for his baby. The age of 16 years and under is mentally immature and they are not ready to settle down so that the occurrence of divorce is quite high in those who are married at the age of <16 years, as well as physically, although signs of maturity of the reproductive organs are already present, it does not mean that adolescents, especially women, have ready and good for marriage at the age of < 16 years. On that basis, knowledge about the above is very important for adolescents in Jayakarta sub-district, especially junior high school (SMPN) students, as well as knowledge about reproductive health. so it is hoped that junior high school students (teenagers) have a good perception of underage marriage so that they can refuse to be married off by their parents and provide input to their parents about the impact of marriage under the age of 16 th

### **Conclusion**

There are three variables, which are significantly related to perception, namely attitudes, information and knowledge, while motivation is not significant.

Knowledge is the most dominant factor associated with adolescent perceptions of underage marriage in Jayakarta sub-district, Karawang district, with an OR = 5.026, meaning that respondents who have good knowledge have a 5,026 chance of having a good perception of underage marriage compared to respondents who have good knowledge. not enough

### **Suggestion**

Collaborating with schools to establish and foster Youth Information and Counseling Centers (PIK-Remaja).

Develop a learning module on maturing age at marriage, family planning and reproductive health to be given to teenagers (junior high school students) to increase teenagers' understanding of marriage age maturation (PUP) through community service activities involving local health centers

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## List Of Abbreviations

UNDESA	=	United Nations Development Economic and Social Affairs
ASEAN	=	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
Riskesda	=	Basic Health Research
NTT	=	East Nusa Tenggara
ASFR	=	Age Spesific Fertility Rate
BKKBN	=	National Family Planning Coordinating Board
PUP	=	Marital age maturation)
UNICEF	=	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
SMPN	=	Public Middle School
OR	=	Odds Ratio
Puskesmas	=	Community Health centers
KUA	=	Religious Affairs office)
PIK	=	Youth Information and Counseling Centers)
Remaja		