

Marriage Age Maturity for the Health and Future of Tlogosari Village Youth

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ABSTRACT

Tlogosari Village is located in Tlogosari District, Bondowoso Regency. The residents of Tlogosari Village generally have a livelihood in agriculture, both as farmers, farm labourers, as well as casual daily laborers and animal husbandry. The location of this village area is quite far from the city center of Bondowoso, but the level of facilities and business environment in this village is quite advanced, although it is overshadowed by early marriage. This, of course, stems from the low level of public understanding of the importance of maturing the age of marriage for the health and future of Tlogosari Village youth. This socialization was carried out by involving the Village Government, the Tlogosari Police, extension workers from the BKKBN, with the organizers being students participating in the STIE Mandala Real Work Lecture. The result was that the responses from the participants who came from junior and senior high school students around the Tlogosari District area were very enthusiastic and it turned out that the high rate of early marriage in this area was also due to encouragement from parents.

Keywords: Age, Assistance, Marriage, Maturity, Socialization

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1. INTRODUCTION

Tlogosari Village is part of the Tlogosari District area, Bondowoso Regency, with almost 25% being rice fields which are divided into several sections according to the type of irrigation such as technical, semi-technical and non-technical rice fields. The coordinates of Tlogosari District are in South Latitude and East Longitude. With a location mostly in the form of hills, the weather in the Tlogosari District area is quite cool and irrigation reserves are sufficient, making it suitable to be used as a center for the development of agricultural business (farm business), and smallholder plantations such as rice, secondary crops, horticulture (chayote, cayenne pepper, tomatoes, durian and avocado), sugarcane and people's coffee. The people in Tlogosari village use Madurese as their daily language, as well as Indonesian and the majority of the people are Muslims with a very Islamic environment.

Tlogosari District is geographically located in the southeastern part of Bondowoso Regency with a distance of about ± 19 km from the Regency capital, Bondowoso. Tlogosari District is located at an altitude of ± 510 m above sea level so that almost 33% of the contours of its territory are hills, the rest are lowlands and mountain slopes. Therefore, the average temperature in this region ranges from 26 – 31°C. The Tlogosari sub-district is bordered on the west by Pujer sub-district, on the north by Wonosari and Sukosari sub-districts, on the east by Sukosari and Sumber Wringin sub-districts, while on the south by Jember Regency. The total area of Tlogosari District is 91.31 km². Its territory is divided into 10 villages, 53 hamlets, 40

neighborhood associations and 241 neighborhood associations (Badan Pusat Statistik Kabupaten Bondowoso, 2015).

Research in 2019 Corona Virus Diseases (COVID-19) pandemic occurred all over the world, including in Indonesia, and its impact was felt for all of society, especially from a health and economic perspective (Yatminiwati et al., 2021). Responsive policies have been launched by the government to overcome these impacts, such as the large amount of assistance provided to the poor and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, but have not been able to improve the welfare of rural communities, in the sense that the community's economy is currently being managed only to survive (Wibowo & Afriyani, 2021). This apparently also resulted in social problems, such as the rise of early marriage (Syakurah et al., 2021).

Early marriage is a marriage contract that is held at an age under the suitability of the applicable regulations. According to UNICEF, a marriage is categorized as an early marriage or also known as child marriage if one of the parties is under 18 (eighteen) years old or is still a teenager (Nurfadilah et al., 2021). In line with that, Law Number 16 of 2019 concerning Amendments to Law Number 1 of 1974 concerning Marriage states that marriage is only permitted if a man and a woman have reached the age of 19.

By studying at home, teenagers are then seen as not doing any activities. Parents considered that in the absence of activities, because before the Pandemic these teenagers went to school every day and then were actually at home, apart from that they were also afraid of being 'neighbor talk', many teenagers were then 'engaged' and not for long after that they got married. This certainly has the potential to thwart student graduation from the education being pursued (Rohayani, 2020). Academics are part of society who are certainly able to contribute to change. Changes related to emerging social realities should be carried out in all fields, and thoroughly at every regional level in Indonesia. Inequality in access to information in the aspects of education, health and social welfare of the community will be overcome and continuous improvement must always be made (Zunaidi et al., 2021).

Based on the situation analysis that has been described, the main problem in the target community is the need for socialization regarding Marriage Age Maturity (PUP). Society does not yet understand the consequences of early marriage both in terms of health, economy, education, and social society. In society there is still a tendency to be 'uneasy' when there are teenagers staying at home, having no meaningful activities even though the teenager is actually doing online learning. The youths were then 'engaged', and not long after that were married off so that they would not 'become the talk of the neighbors'. This thinking is indeed very conservative if we adjust it to the current state of affairs.

Through this Community Service program there are several solutions and targets that have been achieved to overcome community problems, especially in early marriage, namely conducting socialization as well as sharing sessions for junior high and high school youth in the Tlogosari District environment by involving the Tlogosari Village Government, the Tlogosari Police, and BKKBN Tlogosari District. It is hoped that the involvement of the government, police and extension workers can move in an integrated manner to provide outreach to overcome the existence of early marriages in Tlogosari District, especially Tlogosari Village.

2. METHODS

This service is carried out through outreach and mentoring. Socialization is a process of teaching and learning or instilling values, habits and rules of behavior in society from one generation to another in accordance with the role and social status of each in a community group. Development socialization activities from Sulistyan (2020) as follows:

- a. learning process; namely an accommodation process in which the individual holds back, changes the impulses in himself and takes the way of life or the culture of his society.
- b. Habit; in socializing each individual learns habits, attitudes, ideas, patterns of values and behavior, and measures of compliance with behavior in the society in which he lives.

- c. Nature and skills; all the traits and skills learned in the socialization process are compiled and developed as a unit within a person.

While assistance or Mentorship) is rooted in the word Mentor in the Big Indonesian Dictionary (KBBI) which means mentor or caretaker. In a book by Gendro Salim (2014) entitled *Effective Coaching*, he gives the meaning of Mentoring as a guidance activity from someone who is very good at certain things and shares his knowledge with people who need it. The person who carries out the mentoring activity is called the Mentor while the person being mentored is called the Mentee.

This service activity was carried out in synergy with students, through the socialization of Marriage Age Maturity (PUP) together with the Tlogosari Village Government, Tlogosari Police, and Tlogosari District BKKBN. Apart from that, students also made posters and distributed them in the neighborhood of residents' homes in Tlogosari Village so that it is hoped that the whole community will work together to suppress the many early marriages that occur in their area.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Factors Driving Early Marriage

Early marriage is common everywhere. Based on the results of observations made in Tlogosari District, Bondowoso Regency, early marriage at the age of 15-18 years is due to: economic factors, low education, culture and customs, self-will, and promiscuity. In more detail, the following is an explanation of the factors of early marriage, namely:

- a. **Economic Factors.** Economic difficulties are one of the factors causing early marriage, families experiencing economic difficulties will tend to marry off their children at a young age. This marriage is considered a solution to family economic difficulties, by getting married it is hoped that it will reduce the economic burden on the family, so that it will be able to overcome economic difficulties a little. In addition, low economic problems and poverty cause parents to be unable to provide for their children's needs and are unable to pay for school, so they decide to marry off their children in the hope that they will be released from responsibility for financing their children's lives or in the hope that their children can earn a better life. So economic problems and family poverty are the cause of children marrying at an early age, to reduce the economic burden on families.
- b. **Educational Factors.** Adolescent education has a causal relationship with the incidence of early marriage. Adolescents with low education affect the incidence of early marriage, the lower the education of adolescents, the more at risk they are for early marriage due to the lack of activities or daily activities of adolescents so that adolescents choose to marry at an early age. Vice versa, the higher the education of adolescents, the longer it takes to get married, so that adolescents avoid early marriage. So a low level of education or not going to school anymore for a teenager can encourage someone to get married quickly.
- c. **Parental Factor.** Early marriage can also be caused by the influence of even coercion of parents. There are several reasons for parents to marry their children early, because they are worried that their children will get involved in promiscuity and have negative consequences, parents want to perpetuate the relationship with their relations or children, match their children with relatives' children with the reason that the assets they have do not fall into other people's hands, but still held by the family. Parents' education factor is also very influential in early marriage, the lower the parents' education, the greater the parents will marry off their children at an early age. The low education of parents causes a tendency to marry off their children who are underage. This is related to the low level of understanding and knowledge of parents regarding the concept of teenage girls. So parents have a quite large role in early marriage, lack of understanding of parents regarding education is important for the progress of their children, this makes most parents marry their children at an early age.
- d. **Local Habits and Customs** Customs believed by certain communities increase the percentage of early marriages. For example, the belief that it is not permissible to refuse

someone's proposal to their daughter even though they are under the age of 18 (eighteen) years, because this would be considered insulting to the party proposing so that this would cause the parents to marry off their daughter. Apart from that, in certain families, it can be seen that there are those who have a tradition or habit of marrying off their children at a young age, and this goes on continuously, so that the children in these families will automatically follow this tradition. So the habits and customs in the local environment influence the habits of its citizens to marry at an early age. The reason they married at an early age was so they wouldn't be called old maids, and people who were proposed to were forbidden from refusing because it could make it difficult to get a mate.

- e. Married by Accident (married by accident). The occurrence of pregnancies outside of marriage, because children have relationships that violate norms, forcing them to do early marriages, in order to clarify the status of the children they are carrying. This marriage forces them to marry and be responsible for acting as husband and wife as well as being a father and mother, so this has an impact on premature aging, because they are not ready physically and spiritually. In addition, the pregnancy of a child out of wedlock makes parents afraid, so that this encourages parents to marry off their children at a young age. So getting pregnant out of wedlock is one of the factors for children getting married at a young age, because parents are worried about the perceptions of the community in their environment and this makes parents marry off their children at an early age, to cover up the disgrace of the family.

Impact of Early Marriage

Every human action must have a positive impact as well as a negative impact. As with early marriage, it also has direct positive and negative impacts on the perpetrators, namely:

- a. Economic Impact. Teenagers under the age of 18 (eighteen) years are often not yet established or do not have proper jobs due to their low level of education. This causes married children to still be the responsibility of the family, especially the parents of the man (husband). As a result, parents have a double burden, apart from supporting their family, they also have to support new family members. This condition will continue for generations from one generation to the next so that structural poverty will be formed. So marriages held at an early age have an economic impact, namely that the husband has not been able to support his wife due to the possibility that the husband has not yet found a job, and the lack of educational factors that prevent him from getting a job, so they still need a lot of financial support and assistance from parents and they can not fully live independently.
- b. Health Impact. Marrying young carries the risk of not being ready to give birth and caring for children, and if they have an abortion, it has the potential to have an unsafe abortion and can endanger the safety of the baby and the mother to the point of death. At an early age, the cervix of teenage girls is still sensitive so that if they are forced to become pregnant, the risk of causing cervical cancer in the future and the risk of death during childbirth is also great. So marriage done at an early age can pose a danger to women. During pregnancy and childbirth the reproductive organs are not ready. So that during childbirth the possibility of causing death to both mother and child is quite large.
- c. Psychological Impact. For those who marry underage, psychologically they are not ready, because at that age they basically still want to be free like other friends, go to school and work without responsibility towards their husband or children. They are still unstable so they sometimes feel restless and angry for no reason. Young marriages are prone to disputes or strife because each of them wants their partner to acknowledge their existence. In addition, each of them wants to be cared for and pampered. When that expectation is not fulfilled, it is easy for misunderstandings to occur. Early marriage requires responsibility and patience, because small problems in the family can cause misunderstandings that lead to strife and end up leaving their partners and divorce can occur. So early marriage can have an impact on the psychology of husband and wife, where teenagers who still have unstable thoughts and cannot control their emotions, can cause conflict in the household, so that this can lead to divorce.

Through this socialization activity, the authors hope that the social problems of the community in Tlogosari Village in suppressing early marriage can be overcome in an integrated manner. This program runs well even though there are some obstacles. In the sharing session it was discovered that students actually did not want an engagement or early marriage, but parents and neighbors were the parties who most often pressured these teenagers to marry early, especially when learning was carried out online, they were considered to have no other activities because they were more often at home. While the details of the implementation of the Activity Program, Outputs, and the people involved can be seen in table 1 below:

Table 1. Targets and Outcomes of Community Service Activities

No.	Activity and Outcome Program	Elements Involved	Activity Stages
1	Program: Marriage Age Maturity Socialization (PUP) Output: Build an increase in community understanding resulting from the Community Service Program	Village government, Tlogosari Police, family planning counselors from BKKBN, school teachers, KKN students, and junior high school youth community groups	<p>a. Coordinate with the parties involved in this activity, namely the village government, the Tlogosari Police, family planning counselors from the BKKBN, and school teachers to present junior high school youth community groups in the Tlogosari District environment,</p> <p>b. Conduct counseling at the Tlogosari Village Hall.</p> <p>Results obtained:</p> <p>a. The socialization was carried out well and smoothly with the participation of many participants from junior high and high school youth,</p> <p>b. The root of the problem is known from the high rate of early marriage.</p>
2	Program: Students participating in KKN distribute posters containing information about PUP Output: Expanding the reach of PUP socialization to reach people's homes, resulting from the Community Service Program	Village Government, KKN Students	<p>This poster installation was carried out with the aim of expanding the reach of PUP socialization to close to people's homes, so that parents and the community who are the root of the problem are expected to receive and understand information about PUP. In addition, teenagers who cannot attend Socialization can obtain information that is very important for them.</p>

Sources: Data Processed (2022)

Based on the conditions in the field, it appears that the community and state apparatus are very enthusiastic in responding to this activity, so there is no doubt that the program will continue with increasing public understanding, and in the end the objectives of this program can be achieved. Students participating in the KKN are residents of Tlogosari District, although not from the same village, so it is hoped that the continuation of the village government program will be carried out by involving students, and this has been conveyed by the village government which asks students to be involved in further activities.

4. CONCLUSION

The implementation of Community Service activities in Tlogosari Village, Tlogosari District, Bondowoso Regency went well and smoothly, and received full support from the community, as evidenced by their active participation in program implementation so that the community can benefit more optimally. Program sustainability is an important focus in this program, and the

authors believe that this program will be continued until the ultimate goal of suppressing the number of early marriages can be achieved. Suggestions for executors of further community service activities are to carry out broader or more sustainable activities than what we have done.

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