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## Literature Review: Factors Caused an Increase the Number of Early Marriage during the Covid-19 Pandemic



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### Abstract

Early marriage is an issue that is quite hotly discussed at this time, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. The reason is, during the COVID-19 pandemic, there was an increase in the number of early marriages which became a serious threat to women's health, dignity and autonomy. This study aimed to determine the factors that cause an increase in early marriage during the COVID-19 pandemic. The method a literature review was conducted using the Google Scholar, Pubmed, and Science Direct databases to search for national and international journals researching early phenomena during the COVID-19 pandemic. The results of a review of 6 journals showed that the factors that cause an increase in early marriage during the pandemic are caused by several factors, namely economic problems, free sex, lack of knowledge in children, low awareness and knowledge of parents about the impacts and risks arising from child marriage, both physically and mentally. , mental, social and psychological, cultural and because they believe that marriage is an escape from schoolwork, homework, and the stress and boredom of studying and staying at home during a pandemic. Conclusion: From the results of a journal review, it can be concluded that the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted many aspects of life and continues to be felt throughout the world. Including the increase in marriage during the COVID-19 pandemic. To prevent an increase in child marriage, namely the existence of social protection interventions related to social, economic and educational empowerment of adolescents, especially poor youth during the pandemic. and joint efforts are needed involving parents, victims, community leaders, faith-based organizations, governments, international agencies and stakeholders related to preventing early marriage, especially during a pandemic

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## INTRODUCTION

Marriage at a young age is one of the issues that is quite hotly discussed at this time, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. The reason is, during the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of early marriages has increased. Marriage Law Number 16 of 2019 article 7 paragraph (1) stipulates that marriage may only be carried out if the man and woman are 19 years old. This means that the State of Indonesia has a ban on marriage at the age for men and women before reaching the age of 19 years. This law allows individuals who are in the stage of adolescent development to legally marry as long as their age meets these criteria. As a result, UNICEF reports that Indonesia is one of 8 countries with the largest early marriages in the world (Central Bureau of Statistics, 2020).

The number of early marriages every year continues to increase, especially in our country, Indonesia, which occurs a lot during the Covid-19 pandemic. The Covid-19 virus can attack children and adolescents. Adolescence is a critical stage of development in which adolescents experience biological, cognitive, psychological, behavioral and social development. Exposure to the adverse effects of COVID-19 will result in developmental losses in adolescence that can never be recovered so that it will become a health crisis in adolescents (Addae, 2021).

As reported from katadata.co.id that early marriage has various positive and negative impacts, especially for the woman (the bride and groom) in terms of health such as reproduction and the economy. Referring to data from the Directorate General of the Religious Courts Agency, there were 34,000 applications for marriage release from January to June 2020. Of these, 97% were granted and 60% of those who submitted were children under the age of 18. The number of applications for the release of marriages is much higher than last year's 23,700. The application is caused because one or both of the prospective bride and groom have not entered the age of marriage based on the law in force in this country (Bumaeri et al., 2020).

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on many aspects of life continues to be felt around the world. The pandemic has had an impact on the socio-economic, social, cultural, educational and health aspects of people's lives. One of the socio-economic impacts is early marriage and teenage pregnancy (Musa et al., 2021). According to (Saputra et al., 2021, p. 19) shows that the number of early marriages during the COVID-19 pandemic has increased to 175 people per couple during 2020. The current COVID-19 pandemic has brought a new phenomenon in people's lives. Although this pandemic has lasted so long and has not gone away, this will not immediately reduce the number of marriages that occur. even the phenomenon of early marriage has also increased (Anataysa et al., 2021).

The increasing number of early marriages poses a serious threat to women's health, dignity and autonomy. Data from "Save the Children" shows that 2.5 million girls are at risk of marriage by 2025 due to the pandemic. Because every year, about 12 million girls get married before their 18th birthday. This is a violation of human rights (Paul and Mondal, 2021). In addition, the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic is estimated to result in an additional 13 million child marriages between 2020 and 2030, as it hinders efforts to end child marriages that would otherwise have been avoided (UNFPA-UNICEF, 2020).

The purpose of the preparation of the Scoping Review is to increase information, knowledge, and insight related to the factors that cause an increase in the number of early marriages during the Covid-19 pandemic.

## METHOD

In accordance with the objectives, this study examines article reviews through a systematic literature search method. Literature search using PubMed, Science Direct, Gray literature database from 2017 to 2021, qualifying Q1. Articles screened independently by researchers in accordance with the inclusion conditions and exclusion criteria. Search filtering using PEOS method and make research questions.

**Table 2.1: Framework PEOS**

Criteria	Inclusion	Exclusion
Population	1. Women who early marriage 2. Early marriage under the age of 18 years	Men who marry early
Exposure/event	Factors Caused an Increase	
Outcame	The Number of Early Marriage During The Covied-19 Pandemic	
Study Design	Qualitative Study	

The inclusion criteria used in this study are journals that examine the phenomenon of early marriage during a pandemic and have the last 5 years of publication, while the exclusion criteria used are journals whose texts are incomplete, duplicate, reviewed and irrelevant to the topic. The search was carried out using the keyword “With the following keywords: “((((((imfact) OR (effect))) AND (Covied-19))) OR (Pandemics)) AND (early marriage)) OR (child marriage), Qualitative study, early marriage, pandemic period, Qualitative. Then the article screening was carried out according to the criteria determined by the researcher and in accordance with the research questions.

In selecting articles using 3 databases and reference lists, the number of articles was 1430. In searching 3 databases and reference lists, it was found: Pubmed 215 journals, Science Direct 355 journals and Google Scholar 860 journals,

bringing a total of 1430 articles found. After duplication, it turned out that there were 17 journals created a total of 1413 articles. After that, from the results of the release of 1361 journal titles, 7 abstract journals, 5 Anonymous, not 5 journals, 13 Qualitative Studies, and a systematic review of 11 journals, 14 articles were obtained to be taken and reviewed independently based on inclusion and exclusion criteria. The next step is to filter further articles to find appropriate and complete references regarding the factors causing the increase in early marriage during the COVID-19 pandemic and 10 articles were obtained for critical assessment. The author screened the articles based on the results of the critical assessment which then obtained 6 qualitative study articles for final review.

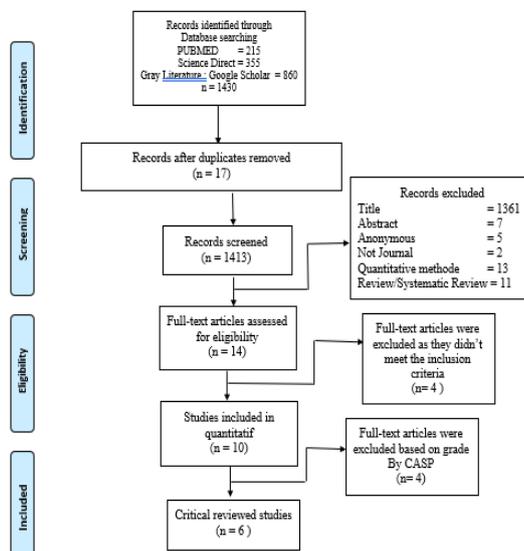


Figure 2.1 Prisma flow diagram

Critical assessment is used to assess the quality of the articles to be used. The tool chosen to assess the quality of articles is the Joana Briggs Institute (JBI). In the critical appraisal stage, critical appraisal is assessed on 10 articles. In addition, journal assessment is also carried out to efficiently assess whether the literature can be used to answer clinical questions and can assess the research methodology used in a particular study, so that it can be decided whether the research results are acceptable or not. note, in this case the author performs a critical assessment using the checklist from JBI. In this process, 6 journals were selected based on the author's assessment who noted that the six journals were of good quality and appropriate to the topic.

Data Extraction: Extraction was carried out on data from 3 articles by entering key criteria, such as research location, study population, research objectives, methodology, and significant findings or recommendations. The author independently recorded the information and then compared the extracted data.

Mapping: The data extracted from the systematic literature review articles were organized into several themes. The themes included in this article review include: Factors causing an increase in early marriage during the COVID-19 pandemic.

## RESULT

The findings with a systematic search obtained articles published in 2017-2021, the authors and sources of data taken were from the State of Indonesia (n=6). the findings of the article come from developing countries. One article taken in this systematic literature review is indexed by Scopus is a journal with Q1 quality and the other five articles taken in this systematic literature review are national journals. The method used in all articles in this systematic literature review is the qualitative method. In this systematic literature review is using method snowball sampling, purposive sampling, and descriptive qualitative.

Details of the review in the form of title, author's name, research method and research results can be seen in table 1.

**Table 2.2: Literature Findings**

No	Title	Writers (Years)	Methods	Results
1.	COVID-19 and the surge of child marriages: A phenomenon in Nusa Tenggara Barat, Indonesia	(Rahiem, 2021)	<i>Snowball sampling</i>	The results of this study indicate that adolescents get married because: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. They believe that marriage is an escape from schoolwork, homework, stress, boredom of studying and staying at home during a pandemic.</li> <li>2. Customary law that some local customs encourage or permit child marriage</li> <li>3. Lack of understanding of the impact and long-term implications of underage marriage</li> <li>4. Economic problems</li> <li>5. The influence of the surrounding environment and peers, which encourage early marriage</li> </ol>
2.	Early Marriage Due to Pregnancy Out of Wedlock During a Pandemic: A Case Study in Ngunut Village	(Nikmah, 2021)	<i>Purposive sampling</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Factors causing an increase in early marriage due to pregnancy out of wedlock during the pandemic are social factors, lack of supervision and interaction with parents, school policy factors, government policy factors,</li> </ol>

and reduced school time.

2. The views of community leaders regarding the increase in early marriage due to pregnancy out of wedlock during the pandemic, there is a need for extra supervision of children, in addition to supervising relationships, also in the use of gadgets. Adding positive, contributive activities to children, and requiring greater responsibility to parents, community leaders, and the environment towards children. Regarding the policy of distance learning or online learning, it is actually well implemented, but there must be continuous evaluation from the school. The attitude of the school with the existence of this policy requires the school to continue to implement the policy as well as possible, the role of parents in distance learning is to be a supporter of the child.

3.	The impact of the covid 19 pandemic on the increase in the number of marriages (case study at KUA jekulo, Kudus district)	(Anataysa <i>et al.</i> , 2021)	Descriptive Qualitative	The results of this study indicate that the increase in the number of marriages in Jekulo District was not significant during the Covid-19 pandemic, because many Javanese people still follow kejawen or according to Javanese customs, such as certain days and years that are considered good for getting married. Furthermore, the implementation of the wedding reception must follow the health protocols that have been outlined in the KUA Circular, one of which is limiting invited guests to a maximum of ten people while maintaining physical distancing and maintaining other health protocols.
4.	The phenomenon of early marriage during the COVID-19 pandemic	(Saputra <i>et al.</i> , 2021)	Qualitative	The results showed that the number of early marriages during the COVID-19 pandemic increased to 175 people/couples throughout 2020. The phenomenon of early marriage that occurred during the COVID-19 pandemic was due to being married by accident. This sexual relationship is vulnerable to occur among those who have increased from adolescence to adulthood. This form of sexual behavior, generally begins when they (the couple) start dating.

5.	The Phenomenon of Underage Marriage by Society 5.0	(Bumaeri <i>et al.</i> , 2020)	Qualitative	The results of the study indicate that the factors that support the 5.0 Society to carry out underage marriages are between other factors are Economic Factors and Factors Tired of learning online, this is because today in an all-digital era like today (the era of disruption 4.0), where people called Society 5.0 are worried about their inability to compete through artificial intelligence technology, they are worried the economic fulfillment of today's society is threatened. Constraints faced in the practice of underage marriage by Society 5.0 are from the physical aspect, from the cognitive aspect, the language aspect, the social aspect, and the emotional aspect, where these five aspects cause disharmony and the integrity of marriage in early childhood. Solutions to answer the phenomenon of underage marriage in the community 5.0 is that it can be done through various early prevention by parents, religious leaders, and Ormas to socialize about marriage to the community through the integration of appropriate technology with the demands of the times, such as online class training for young people especially those who are under 18 years old.
6.	Red zone for early marriage in the pandemic season (a case study in Malang Raya)	(Subekti and Fauziyah, 2021)	Qualitative method carried out in descriptive analytical way	The age of 19 years is a minimum marriage requirement which also exists in Indonesian regulations. The consideration, namely to avoid uncontrolled population growth, is the Indonesian factor in taking policies. Indonesia's control over early marriage is also for social stability.

Based on the table above, it shows that the number of early marriages during the COVID-19 pandemic has increased to reach 175 people/couples throughout 2020. The phenomenon of early marriage that occurred during the COVID-19 pandemic was caused by being married by accident (Nikmah, 2021; Saputra *et al.*, 2021). So that in this case it is necessary to have extra supervision of children, in addition to supervising the association, also in the use of gadgets. Adding positive, contributive activities to children, and requiring greater responsibility to parents, community leaders, and the environment towards children. Regarding the policy of distance learning or online learning. Meanwhile, according to (Anataysa *et al.*, 2021)

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the increase in the number of marriages (a case study at KUA Jekulo Kudus Regency) that the increase in the number of marriages in Jekulo District was not significant during the Covid pandemic. -19, because there are still many Javanese people who follow kejawen or according to Javanese customs, such as certain days and years that are considered good for getting married. In addition, the factors that cause an increase in the number of early marriages during the COVID-19 pandemic are economic factors, the lack of understanding of the impact and long-term implications of underage marriage and the boredom factor of online learning so that they believe that marriage is an escape from work. school, homework, stress, and

staying at home during the pandemic (Anataysa *et al.*, 2021; Bumaeri *et al.*, 2020; Subekti and Fauziyah, 2021).

## DISCUSSION

Child marriage is a violation of human rights, becoming a dangerous and discriminatory global practice that makes millions of girls lose their childhood. This is one of the main challenges and obstacles to achieving sustainable development goals (Clark, 2017). Ending the increase in early marriage has been a global concern and momentum for many years. However, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has affected this progress. Most importantly, one of the most damaging effects of this pandemic has been the rise in child marriage around the world (Malhotra dan Elnakib 2021; World Vision 2021; BBC 2020). And it is predicted that over the next decade, there will be another 10 to 13 million girls who are at risk of getting married early due to the pandemic (Deane, 2021).

The increase in early marriage during this pandemic is caused by several factors, namely economic factors that are influenced by parental education and cultural factors such as the socio-cultural conditions of the community who still match their children who are still underage, and also the influence of technology that is so sophisticated that it makes it easier for children to marry. teenagers to watch pornographic videos that cause the desire to have marital relations. These factors then become the cause of teenage pregnancy outside of marriage which encourages early marriage (Subekti and Fauziyah, 2021). In line with the research conducted by (Susilowati and Atik, 2021) that the factors that cause an increase in early marriage in the midst of a pandemic include:

1. Economic problems, deteriorating economic conditions during the Covid-19 pandemic have also contributed to an increase in child marriage. These difficult economic conditions make some parents think that marrying off their children can ease the burden on the family.
2. Free sex in adolescents that lead to pregnancy is one factor. that affect child marriage
3. The urge to want to get married because of the lack of knowledge in children plays a role in the occurrence of early marriage
4. Low awareness and knowledge of parents on the impacts and risks arising from child

marriage, both physically, mentally, socially and psychologically because they still view early marriage as a compulsion due to an accident and can be accepted as a natural process.

5. The culture of marriage at an early age often reflects matchmaking, especially in rural areas.

Meanwhile, according to (Rahiem, 2021) Factors causing an increase in early marriage during the pandemic are not only caused by cultural/customary factors, lack of supervision and interaction with parents, economic problems, environmental influences and peers, also because they believe that marriage is an escape from schoolwork, work, home, as well as the stress and boredom of studying and staying at home during the pandemic. In line with research conducted by (Susilowati and Atik, 2021) that during the pandemic, many learning activities were carried out at home, giving students flexibility in socializing in the surrounding environment, including dating. Continued unhealthy courtship, promiscuity which eventually leads to pregnancy out of wedlock. Pregnancy out of wedlock which causes parents to be forced to marry off their children even though they are not yet old enough according to the law.

Based on other research conducted by (Mavita and Nurlaila Fitriani, 2021) that the pandemic has also made them stressed as a result of the policies made including online schools. The stress level of adolescents undergoing online school during the Covid-19 pandemic includes 51.7% Normal, 48.3% experiencing mild stress. Because the age of teenagers who do early marriage is at risk of not being able to adapt well to their new environment and situations, they are at risk of causing stress. Symptoms of stress can be a serious health problem that can have a psychological, social and economic impact (Rahmawati, M. (2019). The COVID-19 pandemic has affected the overall economic condition of the community. Economically, people experience difficulties in finding food because of the implementation of various rules and policies that must be implemented (Saputra *et al.*, 2021). So it can increase the probability of marriage by as much as 3% in countries where dowry is common (Musa *et al.*, 2021). Therefore, during this pandemic, all movements are limited, teenagers who always want to find new things by interacting become depressed because the

implementation of social distancing and school closures have disrupted the education of around 1.6 billion children worldwide (BBC, 2021). This triggers an increase in early marriage during the pandemic (Nikmah, 2021).

According to UNICEF that school closures increase the risk of marriage by 25% per year and 2% of girls will never return to school, bringing the risk of marriage due to school closures and dropping out to 27.5% (Musa et al., 2021). The increasing number of underage marriages during the COVID-19 pandemic is supported by situations such as young people who do not go to school filling their time by playing with their friends in their village areas. With no learning activities at school, they are busy communicating with their friends. Not a few of the friendship communication continued to marriage. One of the marriages carried out is also many who are still underage (Subekti and Fauziyah, 2021).

The COVID-19 pandemic has made an already difficult situation for millions of girls worse due to the aftermath of school closures indicating that some of the protective functions of schools will be lost as well as exposing youth to potential social crimes and other health risk behaviors such as increased teenage pregnancy, increased child labour, increased early marriage or increased transactional sex as reported during the Ebola crisis (Addae, 2021).

## CONCLUSION

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted many aspects of life and continues to be felt around the world. Factors causing an increase in early marriage during the pandemic are caused by several factors, namely economic problems, the influence of the surrounding environment and peers (sosial factor), lack of supervision and interaction with parents, the urge to want to get married because of the lack of knowledge in children who play a role in the occurrence of early marriage, culture/customs customs and they believe that marriage is an escape from schoolwork, homework, and the stress and boredom of studying and staying at home during a pandemic.

## SUGGESTION

To prevent an increase in child marriage, namely the existence of social protection interventions related to social, economic and educational empowerment of adolescents,

especially poor youth during a pandemic such as socialization of prevention of child marriage and the existence of offers related to alternative activities and support systems for adolescents to cope with stress due to online learning and stay at home, and joint efforts are needed involving parents, victims, community leaders, faith-based organizations, governments, international agencies and stakeholders related to preventing early marriage, especially during a pandemic.

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