

# Early Marriages in Sleman District: The Challenges and Strategy to Family Quality

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**Abstract.** The purpose this research to explain challenges and family strategy of early marriage in Sleman District. It was triggered of the high number early marriage in Sleman District the last three years. Even in 2014, an increase in cases of early marriage of 6-fold from the previous year. Data collection method was conducted with survey to 55 respondents. Sampling is done by using multi stage sampling method. While the data analysis is done by descriptive analysis, comparative analysis and spatial analysis. The results showed that adolescents who perform early marriage in Sleman District average age 19 years old and the last education is junior high to senior high school. They are also mostly from poor families. Major challenge faced by the early marriage couple is unstable of economic family. Family Strategy to overcome these problems include thrifty, saving, wife work and ask for help from others.

## 1. Introduction

Early marriage in Indonesia is categorized as still high. Based on Susenas 2012 data [1], the number of early marriages in Indonesia amounted to 1.8 million people. By 2015, although the number has decreased but it is still very high at around 1.3 million people [2]. Those are the number of married people whose age is below 16 years. At the ASEAN level the number of early marriages in Indonesia is ranked second only to Cambodia [3]. This is important to be addressed because early marriage is very close to the injustice of women, human rights violations, poverty and vulnerability [4].

Early marriage will always be identified as an act of injustice especially on the fulfillment of the rights of the child [4]. Early marriage will take away the rights of children especially in women. Some of their rights violated by early marriage include the right to get education, the right to get protection from violence, the right to get health, the right to be protected from exploitation and the right to not to be separated from parents [5]. Despite numerous offenses, early marriages that have occurred should be protected so that subsequent violations do not occur.

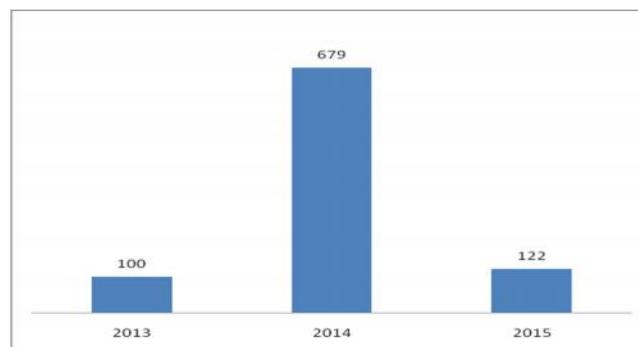
Families that have been formed from the early marriage must be saved and directed towards a quality family. This is in accordance with the mandate of Law No. 52 of 2009 that the family that has been formed should be directed toward a family of quality. The family qualities include various aspects such as quality in terms of economy, health, independence, legal certainty, morality and quality from the religious side. Therefore, an early marriage that happens to be a challenge for its subjects for the family that has been formed is directed toward a quality family. Of course, in solving these challenges policy is needed on the local context of the region. This is because early marriage



issues are very specific and different from one place to another so the solution should be based on the local context in which the problem occurs [6, 7].

The number of early marriages in Daerah Istimewa Yogyakarta (DIY) is also at a stage that requires attention. By 2015, early marriage with the first marriage age <16 years is estimated at 4,000 [8]. Meanwhile, the population of DIY who married with the first marriage age between 17-18 years the number of 10 thousand inhabitants [2, 8]. Based on Article 7 of the Marriage Law, it is mentioned that early marriage is married by couples that both are still under the age of 21 years i.e. 19 years for men and 16 years old for women. So based on that definition, the number of early marriages in DIY in 2015 is estimated at 13 thousand.

The high of early marriage in DIY is a serious problem because DIY has always been a national benchmark in human development indicators. Of all districts and cities in DIY, one of the districts that has serious problems about early marriage was Sleman Regency. Based on data from Dukcapil Sleman, in the last three years, the number of early marriage in 2013 reached 100 cases. In 2014 cases of early marriage increased to six-fold to 679 cases. While in 2015 cases of early marriage in Sleman reached 122 cases. Fluctuations in early marriage cases in Sleman District during the period 2013-2015 can be seen in Figure 1.



**Figure 1.** Fluctuations in early marriage cases in Sleman District during the period 2013-2015

Source: Dukcapil Sleman, Primary data

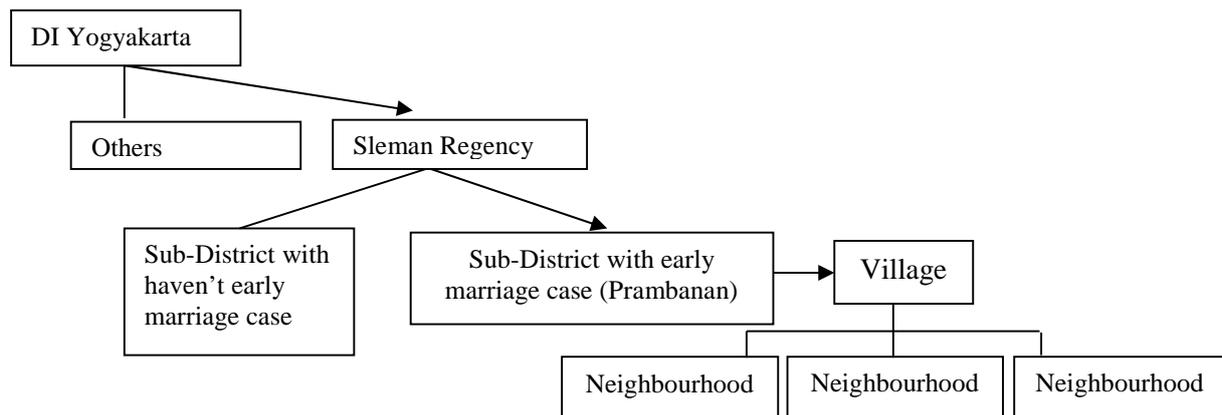
Selection of Sleman District as a research area is based on several things. First, the high number of early marriages that has been shown from previous data that in Sleman is increased since 2013. Even in 2014 the number experienced a drastic surge almost seven times from the previous year. Second, the data base of Sleman District is relatively more complete to identify the population that married at an early age. Third, the characteristics of population who got married early in Sleman District is very unique seen from education. Although in general the level of education in Sleman District is high but the trend of early marriage has also increased in the last three years. Fourth, Sleman District government has a very high commitment to reduce early marriage. This is evidenced by the issuance of Maternal and Child Situation documents and SDGs documents that are very supportive of the protection of children and women [9, 10]. Based on these considerations, Sleman District was chosen as a research area to explain the early marriage seen from the challenges and strategies to achieve a quality family.

## 2. Methods

The method of the research is based on the object of research, based on data analysis and based on the existence of the population [11]. This research based on the object is survey research with qualitative and quantitative method for its analysis. While based on the existence of the population, this research uses sampling method. The unit of analysis of this study is at the family level. Respondents in this study is the wife of the head of the family who conduct early marriage and is considered to provide information.

### 2.1. Selection of location of research area

Research "Early marriages in Sleman District: the challenges and strategy to family quality" was conducted in Sleman District. This study uses a sample of selected kecamatan that was determined by multi stage sampling method. Figure 2 is an illustration of the selection of research sites using multistage sampling method.



**Figure 2.** Illustration of population sampling with multistage sampling

### 2.2. Sampling

In this research, data collection technique is with quantitative method. The respondents collected this method using purposive sampling and took 55 samples of the couple's early age family in Sleman District. This sample is then interviewed with the help of questionnaires which then processed in descriptive statistics that displayed in the form of tables. The selected area is Prambanan Sub-district.

Determination of the number of samples is done by Slovin formula with a limit of tolerance of research error of 10 percent with the following calculation formula:

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + Ne^2}$$

Where:

n: number of samples

N: number of population

E: error tolerance. For fault tolerance in this study 10%.

The number of early marriages based on last year's data is 122 families. Based on the formula, the minimum sample value that can be used as sample to represent the population is 55 households.

## 3. Results and discussion

This research will explain the challenges and strategies of early marriage families in Sleman District. The selected location is Prambanan Sub-district. To explain these goals some of required data includes family profiles of early marriage partners, data on challenges faced by early marriage partners and data about the strategies undertaken by early marriage partners in solving the problems they face.

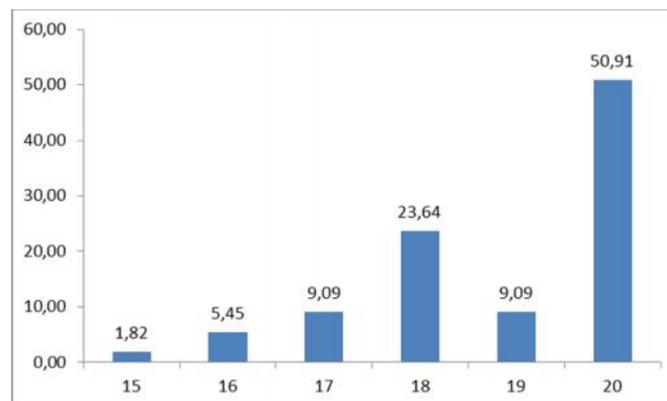
### 3.1. Profiles about early marriage families

Profiles about early marriage families will not be answered entirely. Couples profiles are limited only to the wife's first marriage, wife education, husband's education, husband's work, and asset ownership. Based on the wife's first marriage age, most married at the age of 20 years (Figure 3). Half of the

women interviewed were married at the age of 20 because they feel that it is a right age to get married. In addition, for residents in the upper area, married at the age of more than 17 years is an anomaly.

The second largest percentage was women married at the age of 18 years (23.64 percent). In this group, women who married are post-graduate high school. Based on the interview, they get married because they do not know what to do anymore. When a man asks to marry, the woman will accept it. Both their parents also allow because they are considered able to marry.

Early marriage cases in Prambanan sub-district were also conducted by women aged 15-17. They get married because they want (without any coercion). Generally the family background of married wives at the age of 15-17 years were poor. It is seen as the best way as they no need to go to school.

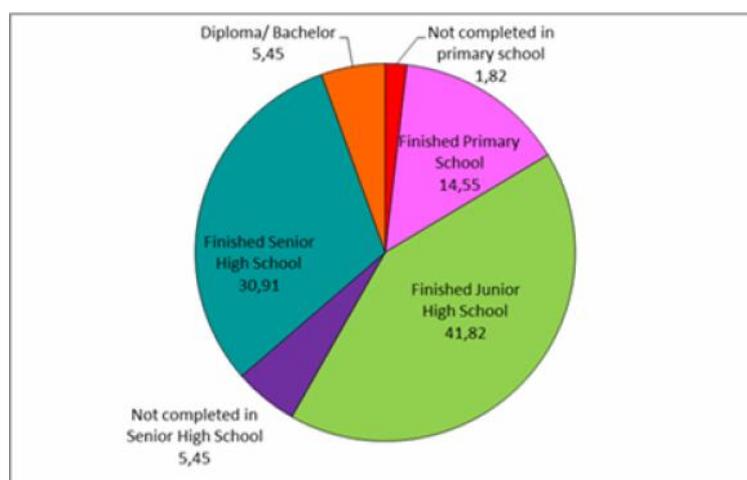


**Figure 3.** The percentage of wife's first marriage age  
Source: Primary Data, 2017

### 3.2. Wife's education

Wife's education has relationship with their married age. Women who have low education tend to get married at younger age. Most of the wives interviewed is junior high school graduates (41.82%). Other high percentage is wife who graduated from Senior High School which is 30.91 percent. The smallest percentage is wife who did not complete elementary school that is equal to 1.82 percent (Figure 4).

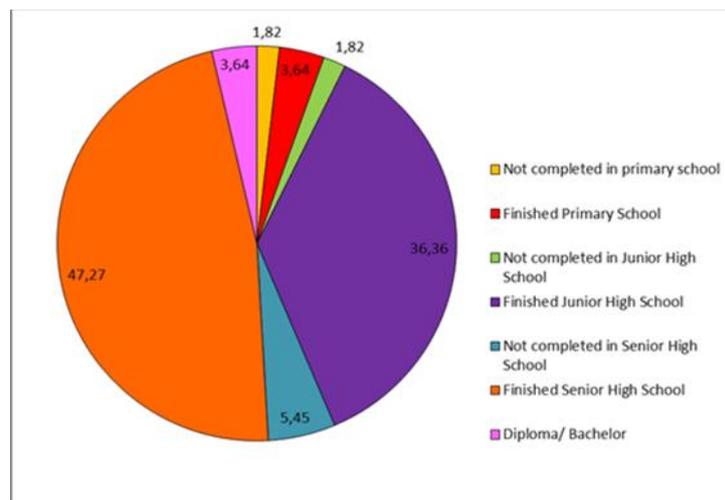
Although the average wife's education is up to secondary education, there are wives who has higher education which is 5.45 percent that graduated from D3/S1. They are small percentage of early age married women who still want to continue their education until university level. Nevertheless, they remain in domestic sector that takes care of the family and decides to enter the public sector.



**Figure 4.** The percentage of wife's education

### 3.3. Husband's education

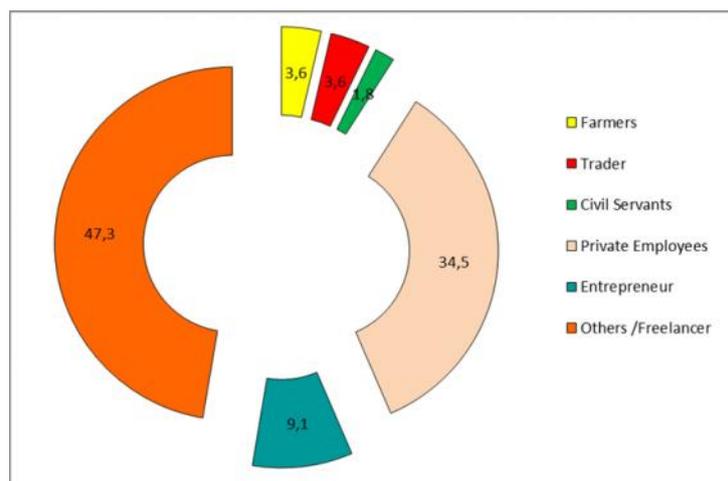
Based on the level of education of the husband, most husbands are finished high school with a percentage of 47.27 percent (Figure 5). Other high number is husband with Junior High School education with percentage of 36.36 percent. This condition is similar to wives education where the highest education is at secondary education level. Meanwhile, the education of husbands with the smallest percentage is not finished primary school (SD) and graduated from elementary school.



**Figure 5.** The percentage of husband's education

### 3.4. Husband's Occupation

Husband as head of the family has a main job to meet the needs of family life by working. Nearly half of the husbands work as freelancers or carry on other work. Based on Figure 6 approximately 47.3 percent of husbands work in the field. The second largest number is husband who works as a private employee of 34.5 percent. Meanwhile, the percentage of husbands who work as civil servants is the lowest at 1.8 percent which the type of work as safest job of any other job.

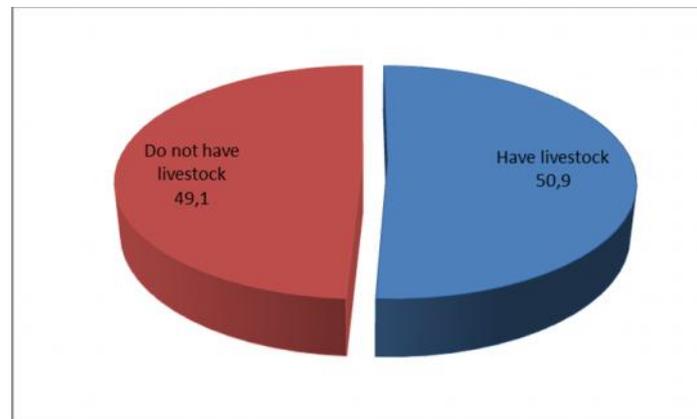


**Figure 6.** The percentage of husband's occupation

### 3.5. Ownership of assets

One of the strategies that families do in building the economy is to have livestock as a form of assets in the family. When viewed on the basis of livestock ownership, about 50 percent of the respondents in the study had livestock (Figure 7). The most widely owned cattle as a family asset is chicken

poultry (owned by 35 families). In addition to poultry, the family's livestock assets are cows (owned by 5 families) and goats (owned by 4 families).



**Figure 7.** The percentage of livestock ownership

Ownership of other assets held by early marriage households can be seen in Table 1. Based on the table, only 32.7 percent of families own homes. Others are still contracting or living with parents. For motor ownership, almost all families have motor assets. The motor is usually used by the husband to go to work. As for jewelry ownership, 81.8 percent have jewelry. Those who have the jewelry come from the dowry when the brand is married.

**Table 1.** Ownership of early marriage family assets

Asset Ownership	Have	Do not have	Total (n=55 KK)
House	32,7	67,3	100
Motor	98,2	1,8	100
Jewellery	81,8	18,2	100

Source: Primary Data, 2017

### 3.6. Discussion

Law No. 1 of 1971 mentions that the marriage age limit is 21 years, both for men and women. The age limit of the marriage must be fulfilled in the hope that they can be prepared both physically and spiritually. That is because for the age that has not reached 21 years will find obstacles to assume responsibility as husband. Therefore, according to Law Number 4 Year 1979 regarding Child Welfare, age under 21 years is still referred to as a child.

Early marriage occurs in poor, low-income, low-educated and limited assets [12]. This also applies in the research area that the perpetrators of early marriage mostly have low education, low income and have limited assets. Early marriage actors are usually those who are both or one of them are poorly educated.

For women, low education will quickly lead to early marriage [13]. This means that the lower the education of women then the potential for marriage in early age to be large. The results of the Prambanan study show that most of the early-age players are of medium-level education. In women, most are in junior high school. These findings also occur in other areas, that married women at a young age usually have low educational background [14-17].

Approximately 70 percent of women who married early to have husband with same level of education. This means that education level of husbands as breadwinners is at the middle level of education. In Indonesia, education levels usually have a linear relationship with income and occupation. This means that the higher the education will tend to have better income. The results of

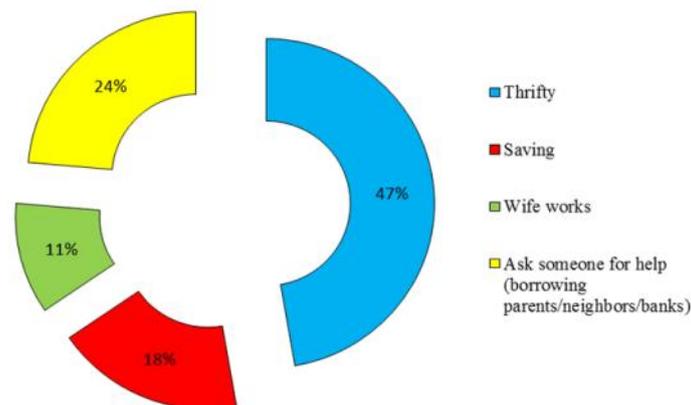
this study indicate that most husbands work as private employees and casual workers. This is because the level of education they mostly only until high school, so that the choice to get a job is limited. As a result their income is also in the low to moderate category.

United Nations Population Fund says that early marriage is very close to gender inequalities, poverty and vulnerability [4]. That is because couples who married at an early age tend not ready either from the economic or psychological aspects. From the results of the study note that the economic problems become the toughest problem felt by the family of the couple early marriage.

*3.6.1. The challenge of early marriage.* The problems that occur in early marriage families require completion. The settlement is in detail divided into family strategies. The economic strategy of a family as effort to maintain sustainability and develop family economy were varies. Most of the strategies are saving (Figure 8). A total of 47 percent of families make savings with tight financial management by the wife. Other strategies that are often applied by the family is to borrow money from parents, neighbors or borrowed at the bank.

The main strategy of borrowing from others such as borrow money from parents, neighbors and financial institutions/banks is done by some families. But, borrowing from parents is the most strategy that have been done because it does not require a guarantee or other requirements.

The economic strategy of borrowing money from a neighbor for example is in shape of arisan. In addition, it includes borrowing in a collection of community social organizations such as Gapoktan, Dasawisma, or similar community organizations. In fact, borrowing strategies to social organizations in ordinary communities are used by families to meet their daily needs.



**Figure 8.** The percentage of economic strategy

The family's strategy to solve the quarrel problem is divided into four. The often applied strategy is to go to entertainment venues for refreshing (Figure 9). In addition to refreshing, the strategy is to communicate with the husband. Nevertheless, there are 16 percent of women who silent if they quarrel with their husbands(didiamkan/dipendam sendiri).



**Figure 9.** The percentage of phsicology strategy

#### 4. Conclusions

The results showed that adolescents who perform early marriage in Sleman District average age 19 years, who graduated from junior and senior high school and came from the background of poor and middle family. The main challenge faced by an early marriage partner is the unstable economic condition of the family. Strategies that are done to overcome these problems include frugality, saving, wife work and ask for help from others. In addition to these strategies, raising livestock becomes a family strategy as a saving if at any time there is an urgent economic need.

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