

Determining Factors Associated with Adolescents' Knowledge of the Impact of Early Marriage

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ABSTRACT

Background: Early marriage continues to be a significant social issue with far-reaching consequences for adolescents, particularly in psychological, health, and economic domains. One of the key factors influencing early marriage is the level of adolescents' knowledge. Adequate understanding of the impacts of early marriage is therefore essential in preventing the practice. This study aims to determine the determinants associated with adolescents' knowledge levels about the impact of early marriage at Junior Islamic School.

Method: This was a descriptive analysis employing cross-sectional design. Population of the study were students at MTs Al Ishlah, and used total sampling technique. We included a total of 111 students. The validity test prove that value of r larger than r table (0.361), and the result of questionnaire reliability test was > 0.60 (α : 0.082). Data collection was carried out in May 2025 and was assisted by fellow researchers in each classroom.

Result: The results of the analysis showed that most respondents were in the middle adolescent age category and were dominated by the male gender. The majority of respondents came from families with lower to middle parental education levels and income levels below the UMK. A correlation was found between several factors such as age, parents' educational level, parental income, and the sources of information accessed by adolescents and their level of knowledge about the consequences of early marriage. This relationship was statistically significant, with a p -value of ≤ 0.05 . It can be concluded that parental education level, parental income, information sources, and age are factors that are significantly related to the level of adolescent knowledge about the impact of early marriage. The implication of this study is the need for direct educational intervention programs by health workers or schools by considering determinant factors to be able to increase adolescent knowledge.

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INTRODUCTION

Child marriage is still a big issue because it's actually happening in some regions of Indonesia. In 2023, UNICEF found Indonesia to be the eighth-highest and second highest in the ASEAN region for prevalence of early marriage. Early attacks Figures were updated to focus on the period from 2011-2020 and more than the total of two million child marriages over the decade, UNICEF said. Previous data from 2018 indicated that more than 1,000 women in Indonesia aged 20 to 24 were married before the age of 18, with 1,220,900 married before the age of 18.(1) On a global scale, 60% of girls marry before reaching the age of 18. The practice of early marriage remains prevalent in Southeast Asia and Africa.

Available data indicate that approximately 10 million children in Southeast Asia are married before the age of 18. In Africa, prevalence is 42%, and in the

Caribbean and Latin America, 29% of the population has child brides.(2) From BPS data of 2023, in West Java it was 23.81% whose marriages remain under the age of 18 th years 130,943 requests for marriage earlier. The West Java Women's Empowerment, Child Protection and Family Planning Service (DP2AKB) stated that Bandung Regency was the area with highest prevalence followed by Bogor Regency and Garut Regency.(3) The cases of early marriage recorded were 15,809 in the Regency of Bandung, 14,429 in the Regency of Bogor and 11,988 people for other regencies. This shows that Bandung Regency has the most early marriages in West Java.

Early marriage is influenced by a variety of factors, including structural elements, community conditions, familial situations, and individual abilities. According to the National Socioeconomic Survey (Susenas) and findings from the literature, adolescents most vulnerable to early marriage are girls, those from

low-income households, and individuals with lower levels of education.(1) This occurs because adolescents from low economic and educational backgrounds tend not to think long-term about their future.

Knowledge has been shown to be a significant factor in decision-making processes, including those related to marital relationships. An individual's level of knowledge strongly influences behavior, as greater knowledge is often associated with wiser and more mature decision-making.(4) Efficiently, as a protective factor, understanding the phenomenon of early marriage may help adolescents make wise decisions. As such, adolescents should be the entry point for early marriage prevention. Interventions developed should be more focused, with attention to the particular needs, problems and features of adolescents.

In light of the findings, it can be concluded that knowledge is a crucial factor in preventing early marriage. The development of adolescents' knowledge does not occur spontaneously; rather, it is influenced by various factors, including education, social and economic conditions, sources of information, culture, environment, age, and experience.(5) Therefore, this study aims to examine the factors associated with adolescents' understanding of the consequences of early marriage. By comprehending the factors associated with knowledge levels, targeted intervention strategies can be formulated to enhance and enrich adolescents' understanding of early marriage.

Early marriage is associated with negative outcomes, which are manifold and include physical, psychological, reproductive health, and economic aspects. Although the effects are similar for adolescent boys, they are less pronounced than those experienced by girls. Early marriage has been associated with early pregnancy and childbearing among girls, resulting in high maternal mortality.(6) These values are perhaps due to the fact that a woman's body has not been completely ready to conceive and bear children yet. Some of the factors associated with early marriage: it indicates the knowledge, socioeconomic status, final education level of parents and adolescents, culture, environment, and advertisement are some of the influences.

Differences in the adolescents' understanding on consequences of early marriage have to be addressed. Research indicates that several factors influence early marriage, including knowledge levels, socioeconomic status, parental and adolescent education, cultural and environmental contexts, and media exposure. Adolescents' varying comprehension of the ramifications of early marriage continues to be a substantial issue. The second most populated district in Bandung Regency is Rancaekek District.

The study was conducted in Rancaekek District, as the district represented social conditions that were relevant to high prevalence of early marriage in Bandung Regency. Most people in the district work in industry with low-income levels. Previous studies have shown that low economic status can influence decisions to marry early. An examination of the social dynamics in Rancaekek District also reveals distinctive characteristics, particularly in the community's perspectives on education and employment.(7) Despite the growing cognizance of education's pivotal role, the community persists in perceiving it as a conduit for securing employment in industrial settings.(8) This perspective reflects a constrained comprehension of the comprehensive role of education in influencing adolescents' decisions regarding early marriage.

Rancaekek District in Bandung Regency is one of the districts with a relatively high early marriage prevalence. More than ten couples have applied for marriage dispensations, according to an interview with the Head of Rancaekek Ministry of Religious Affairs (KUA) office, although only two were officially registered and had the correct forms. The remaining couples entered into religious or informal marriages, which did not comply with the applicable regulations. According to the Head of the Rancaekek KUA, early marriages are precipitated by a variety of circumstances, including pregnancy outside of marriage.

There was a study from the Linggar Community Health Center in Rancaekek that found 21 girls under the age of 19 were pregnant. The majority of the pregnancies were followed by religious or customary marriages because they did not undergo a marriage process at the Office of Religious Affairs (KUA). Five of the pregnancies were among Al-Ishlah Islamic Junior High School (MTs) students, the data had shown. Adolescent pregnancy should, therefore, be the focus of more specialized attention, especially in educational institutions, for parents and other stakeholders to combat and reduce the problem.

This study will be conducted at Al-Ishlah MTs in Linggar Village. Preliminary findings indicate that some students have not yet been exposed to information about early marriage. According to the principal of Al-Ishlah MTs Rancaekek, the topic of early marriage is addressed in the classroom only in a general manner, typically within the context of advising students to avoid adultery. The institution has not yet appointed a guidance counselor; thus, there is an absence of an integrated guidance program for each student.

The community health center periodically provides educational materials to students; however, these materials do not specifically address the risks,

impacts, or prevention of early marriage. This finding highlights the need for more focused and comprehensive education on this issue, particularly in identifying the factors associated with adolescents' knowledge of the impacts of early marriage.

The present study focuses on the factors that determine adolescents' knowledge of the impacts of early marriage. In essence, it is imperative to ascertain the pivotal factors associated with adolescents' knowledge requirements. This situation necessitates careful research to identify and examine these factors, thereby supporting the development of comprehensive strategies to improve adolescents' knowledge. Enhanced knowledge is expected to increase adolescents' awareness and guide informed decision-making regarding early marriage. Accordingly, this study aims to determine the factors associated with adolescents' level of knowledge about the impacts of early marriage.(9)

METHOD

The method in this study is a descriptive analytical design with a cross-sectional approach. conducted at Islamic Junior High School in Bandung Regency. The study population consisted of students from an Islamic Junior High School, and a total sampling technique was applied, involving all 113 students. Total sampling refers to a method in which the entire population is included as research participants. The response rate in this study was 98% with responses from 111 students. This is because two students were eventually T gone, and by the testimony of the principal, planning to resign. Hence they could not become part of the study.

Data were collected through interviews using a questionnaire designed to assess the determinant factors related to adolescents' knowledge of the impacts of early marriage. The instrument was tested for validity, with results indicating that the calculated r values exceeded the r table value (0.36). The knowledge questionnaire used in this study was adapted from previous research.(10)

The results of the reliability test were declared reliable if the value was > 0.60 . The results of the questionnaire reliability test were $0.082 > 0.60$. In this study, researchers will provide feedback to schools regarding the research findings to prevent early marriage. The identity of the respondent will also be kept confidential and overly sensitive questions will be avoided by researchers.

In order to limit possible biases, 20 sixth-form students were assembled in one room, with the presence of two researchers and a teacher. Before entering the participants' area, potential respondents underwent a procedure to determine their eligibility for participation.

After this step, respondents were accompanied by members of the research team to a designated room to complete the questionnaire. This arrangement was intended to ensure that responses reflected the respondents' personal experiences. Univariate data analysis was conducted using frequency distributions and percentages, while bivariate analysis employed the chi-square test.

This study has obtained permission from the Health Research Ethics Committee of the Faculty of Health Sciences and Technology, Jenderal Achmad Yani University, with Number: 087/KEPK/FITKes-Unjani/V 2025.1).

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Table 1. Frequency distribution of the age of adolescents at Islamic junior high school

Characteristic	f	%
Age		
Early Adolescence (10-13 years)	45	40.5
Middle Adolescence (14-16 years)	66	59.5
Parent's education		
Elementary School	18	16.2
Junior High School	37	33.3
Senior High School	54	48.6
Diploma	2	1.8
Parent's income		
<3,757,284 IDR	62	55.9
>3,757,284 IDR	49	44.1
Adolescent's information exposure		
Exposed	89	80.2
Not Exposed	22	19.8
Adolescent's knowledge		
Good	50	45
Enough	33	29.7
Not enough	28	25.2
Total	111	100

Table 1 shows that most of the respondents were middle adolescents (69.5%); the majority of respondents had elementary school education (18 respondents) (16.2%); the majority of respondents (55.9%) had parents with incomes below Rp3,757,284/month; and the majority of respondents were exposed to information about the risks of early marriage (80.2%).

Frequency distribution of knowledge of Islamic junior high school adolescents about the impact of early marriage demonstrates that 50 respondents (45%) have strong knowledge, 33 respondents (29.7%) have sufficient knowledge, and 28 respondents (25.2%) have low knowledge.

Table 2. Frequency distribution item of knowledge of Islamic junior high school adolescents about early marriage

Item of knowledge	Correct		Incorrect	
	f	%	f	%
Marriage is defined as a physical and spiritual bond between a man and a woman.	100	100	11	90
From a reproductive health standpoint, early marriage is defined as a marriage that occurs at an age of less than 20 years.	96	96	15	86.4
One possible benefit of getting married young is that it lowers the risk of getting sexually transmitted illnesses (STDs).	51	60	60	54
As a result, ladies under the age of 19 who get married are not breaking the law.	32	79	79	71.1
There is now a law that says those under 21 can't perform marriages.	78	78	33	70.2
The phenomenon of early marriage has been demonstrated to have a significant impact on the incidence of sexual deviation among couples.	13	98	98	88.2
The absence of preparation for early marriage has been demonstrated to engender stress.	57	57	54	51.3
Early marriage has been demonstrated to have deleterious effects on familial relationships.	88	88	23	79.2
A lack of preparation for early marriage has been demonstrated to be a contributing factor to suicide.	75	75	36	67.5
The early marriage fosters familial harmony is one that merits further investigation.	55	56	56	50.4
The early marriage poses a risk to early pregnancy has been disproven.	47	64	64	57.6
Getting married young can put you at risk for anemia, which is not having enough red blood cells.	32	32	79	28.8
Early marriage can reduce depression	83	28	28	25.2
The practice of early matrimony among adolescents may be associated with a reduced risk of contracting sexually transmitted diseases.	55	56	56	50.4
The early marriage of women has been demonstrated to be associated with a reduction in maternal mortality rates (MMR).	32	79	79	71.1
The early marriage has been demonstrated to be associated with an elevated risk of premature mortality among the youth	69	69	42	62.1
The early marriage has been demonstrated to exert an influence on infants born to such unions.	73	73	38	65.7
Infants born to mothers younger than 20 years likely to have a high birth weight.	23	88	88	79.2
The phenomenon of early marriage has been demonstrated to be a contributing factor to the emergence of incompatibility with in-laws.	87	87	24	78.3
One possible result of being married young is a higher chance of cheating.	91	91	20	81.9
Early marriage can lead to divorce	101	101	10	90.9
The decision to marry at a young age does not impede the pursuit of education among adolescents.	14	97	97	87.3
The repercussions of early matrimony are manifold, but chief among them is the fact that adolescents receive increased parental attention.	15	96	96	86.4
A lot of study has been done on the link between early marriage and the economic health of families.	98	98	3	88.2
Getting married young will lower the number of abortions (ending a pregnancy before the baby is delivered).	22	89	89	80.1

Table 3. The association of determinant factors (age, parental education, parental income, and information sources) with the level of adolescent knowledge about the impact of early marriage at Islamic junior high school

Variable	Not enough		Enough		Good		P-value
	f	%	f	%	f	%	
Age							
10-13 years	18	40.0	14	31.1	13	28.9	0.004
14-16 years	10	15.2	19	28.8	37	56.1	
Parental education							
Elementary school	12	66.7	4	22.2	2	11.1	0.000
Junior high school	13	35.1	13	35.1	11	29.7	
Senior high school	3	5.6	16	29.6	35	64.8	
Higher education level	0	0	0	0	2	100	
Parents' income							
< 3,757,284	22	35.5	19	30.6	21	33.9	0.007
> 3,757,284	6	12.2	14	28.6	29	59.2	
Resources							
Print media	5	17.9	6	28.6	14	53.6	0.002
Electronic media	6	15.0	12	30.0	22	55.0	
Direct	4	19.0	6	28.6	11	52.4	
Not exposed	13	59.1	7	31.8	2	9.1	

The table 2 illustrates that, in general, the people who answered the questions had a good grasp of the essential ideas. Most correctly identified the general definition of marriage (100 correct answers; 90%). Similarly, the reproductive-health definition of early marriage as occurring before the age of 20 was correctly answered by the majority (96 correct answers; 86.4%). Respondents also showed high knowledge regarding the major social consequences of early marriage: early marriage was strongly associated (in respondents' knowledge) with divorce (101 correct answers; 90.9% correct), and most rejected the claim that marrying young does not interfere with education (97 correct answers; 87.3% correct). In addition, most respondents rejected the idea that early marriage primarily results in increased parental attention (96 correct answers; 86.4% correct) and recognized that early marriage is a topic closely connected to family economic well-being in research discussions (98 correct answers; 88.2% correct).

Table 3 presents the relationship between determinant factors such as age, parents' educational background, parental income, and sources of information and adolescents' level of knowledge about the impacts of early marriage. Overall, the majority of adolescents demonstrated a good level of knowledge (45%). Statistical analysis indicated that all variables were significantly associated with adolescents' knowledge levels, with a P-value of ≤ 0.05 .

Adolescent knowledge overview

Knowledge is a cognitive factor that significantly influences human behavior and attitudes. According to Bloom (11), knowledge is obtained through the process of capturing information from an object using the five senses,

especially through hearing and sight. The findings of this study indicate that a significant proportion of male and female students at MTs Al-Ishlah Rancaekek demonstrate proficient knowledge, with at least 45% of respondents achieving a score of 75% or higher on the assessment. While the majority of respondents have obtained adequate information regarding the impacts of early marriage, a notable proportion still lack comprehensive knowledge on the subject. The study found that 29.7% of respondents demonstrated a sufficient level of knowledge, while 28 respondents (25.2%) were classified as having inadequate knowledge. The findings suggest that while a substantial proportion of adolescents have been exposed to the detrimental consequences of early marriage, a segment of the population remains under-informed about its repercussions.

Research findings indicate that respondents with a strong understanding of the subject primarily obtained information about early marriage through electronic media, including mobile phones, television, radio, and similar platforms. Among these respondents, 22 (55%) cited electronic media as their source, followed by 14 (53.6%) who relied on print media, and 11 (52.4%) who received information directly through interpersonal interactions. The acquisition of knowledge from diverse, quality media sources has been identified as a pivotal factor in fostering the growth and development of individuals' intellectual capacities. In this study, direct exposure to information, whether from teachers, health workers, parents, or peers, is still considered insufficient.(12) Consequently, local governments and schools should prioritize the improvement of health education, particularly regarding the consequences of early marriage. Adolescents with a strong understanding of these

consequences are often influenced by information received directly from teachers, parents, health workers, and peers. Therefore, direct education can serve as a strategic approach to enhance adolescents' knowledge of the impacts of early marriage.(13)

Research findings indicate a trend toward increased knowledge regarding the impacts of early marriage with age. This phenomenon is indicative of the maturation process that adolescents undergo and their growing capacity to process and understand information. Among the respondents, 10 individuals (33.3%) in their late teens demonstrated a relatively high level of knowledge. Research has shown that increasing age supports the development of thinking and comprehension skills, which in turn contribute to greater knowledge.(14) As children grow into their teenage years, they also become more resilient and can draw more wisdom when thinking or acting. It has been proven that females getting married at a young age are exposed to many detrimental outcomes, including physical health, psychological status, and socio-economic conditions. Adolescent girls are subject to an elevated risk of pregnancy complications due to their increased vulnerability to adverse outcomes, including anemia, maternal mortality, infant mortality, and low birth weight.(15,16) Moreover, immature emotionally adolescent girls who marry young are more at risk of mental problems such as stress, anxiety, and depression. From a societal point of view, early marriage is linked with increased rates of education and occupational desertion among adolescent girls, further restricting their opportunities in the future. As adolescent girls were affected in large numbers, information needed to be disseminated to help them protect themselves. Adolescents, particularly girls, in prevention programs for early marriage can be educated. An educational and transformative approach is necessary in order to affect the mindset of adolescents and the community with regard to early marriage.

Relationship between parents' education and adolescent knowledge

The findings of this study indicate a significant relationship between parental education and adolescents' level of knowledge regarding the impact of early marriage. This is supported by the results of statistical tests showing a P-value of $0.000 < 0.05$, so H_a is accepted, and H_0 is rejected. Among the 111 respondents, the majority of those whose parents had a high school education demonstrated good knowledge, with 35 respondents (64.8%) falling into this category. In contrast, respondents whose parents had a junior high school education primarily exhibited sufficient or insufficient knowledge (35.1%). For respondents whose parents had an elementary school education, 12 (66.7%)

demonstrated insufficient knowledge, while 4 (22.2%) had sufficient knowledge. These findings further support the idea that parental education is an important factor in influencing children's knowledge, including awareness of topics like early marriage. The more highly educated the parents, the greater their understanding of children's education and early marriage. Education level has a significant influence on an individual's mindset, behavior, and decision-making in daily life. Parents with higher levels of education generally tend to be more critical of information and more effective in guiding their children, including providing knowledge about reproductive health, marriage readiness, and the long-term consequences of early marriage.(5)

Parental education significantly correlates with adolescents' knowledge of the impacts of early marriage. The study found that adolescents with low-educated parents are at a higher risk of early marriage due to a lack of parental insight and control over the risks their children face.(17) Families with low education levels may have close to six times higher odds of early marriage among adolescents compared to those with a high educational background. This implies that better-educated parents are more enlightened and view early marriage as possibly harmful to their children. This is reflected in the research data, which show that respondents whose parents had a secondary or higher education were more likely to demonstrate a good level of knowledge about the impacts of early marriage. This confirms that parental education not only influences their attitudes and decisions as guardians but also influences the access and quality of information received by adolescents.(18)

The findings of this study support previous theories and research, highlighting parental education as a key determinant in shaping adolescents' knowledge and awareness of the impacts of early marriage. Promotive and preventive strategies should thus be addressed not only to adolescents, but also to parents, especially those with lower education levels, by means of health and family education programmes. Parent education is designed to improve parents' understanding of the significance of their role in protecting girls from EFE through open discussion with them. Highlights family dialogue is an effective means of warding off early spouses. This education needs to strengthen parents' understanding that early marriage is not a solution to poverty and can actually create a new cycle of poverty if the child is not ready for marriage.(19)

Relationship between parents' income and adolescent knowledge

Findings of this study has shown significant association between parenting income and the level of adolescent knowledge on the adverse effects of early

marriage with P-value > 0.005. It appears from data analysis that out of the 49 respondents with parents' income >Rp3,757,284, there were approximately 29 (59.2%) who had a good level of knowledge on the effect of early marriage. This finding suggests that family income is significantly related to adolescents' ability to access adequate information and education about early marriage.

Superior economic status provides the families with education and the provision of sufficient learning resources or media/information on the consequences of early marriage. On the other hand, families of low income might not have as many opportunities for quality education and attention to the future of their children. Economic factors also influence the availability of supporting resources, which can affect an individual's level of knowledge.(5)

The weak economic conditions can be a reason for families to decide to marry off their children early, in order to reduce the financial burden on the family. Furthermore, limited access to education due to economic factors also causes adolescents to drop out of school, ultimately making them vulnerable to early marriage.(20) This is further supported by findings showing a significant relationship between parental income levels and the incidence of early marriage, with a P-value of 0.000. Lower parental income is associated with a higher likelihood of adolescents entering early marriage, as families with limited economic resources often prioritize short-term needs over the long-term risks of marrying off their children at a young age.(21)

The findings of this study confirm that parental income not only plays a role in meeting the family's economic needs but also directly influences children's access to education and information, which ultimately determines their level of knowledge about the impact of early marriage. This study corroborates prior theories and studies suggesting that parental income is a critical factor influencing adolescents' awareness of the consequences of early marriage. Young people from households with poor incomes are more likely to be pushed to get married early because of financial problems. Consequently, preventative initiatives must encompass the economic aspect, with one possible approach being the establishment of economic empowerment programs.

The formation of economic and social task forces at the village or sub-district level has proven successful in reducing cases of early marriage. This approach integrates efforts to increase family income and social supervision of at-risk children and adolescents.(22) Meanwhile, the Edupreneurship program in Wajo Regency demonstrated that engaging adolescents in productive business activities can foster economic independence and steer them away

from risky behaviors, such as early sexual activity and early marriage. These findings reinforce the idea that, alongside education, economic empowerment can serve as a more effective and sustainable strategy for preventing early marriage.(23)

Relationship between information sources and adolescent knowledge

Data analysis related to information sources and respondents' level of knowledge shows a significant relationship, as indicated by a P-value of 0.002 < 0.05. Adolescents' knowledge is also influenced by the type of information they receive, whether direct or indirect (12). This is supported by findings showing that indirect sources, such as online media and reading materials, do not have a significant impact on increasing adolescents' knowledge about early marriage. These results suggest that both the type and quality of information play a crucial role in effectively enhancing understanding.(24)

Based on research (25) found that direct interaction with peers also plays a significant role in increasing adolescents' knowledge. Peers are often a comfortable forum for discussion, especially on sensitive topics such as early marriage or sexuality. People are more likely to believe information they get from peers since they have similar backgrounds and experiences. Digital and social media also play a big role in molding how teens think and what they know, even if they can have both good and bad effects.

Studies indicate that instructional media have to be crafted to be captivating and in harmony with the traits of contemporary young, who are progressively attracted to digital platforms. In this context, nurses play a key role in disseminating information through social media, brochures, posters, or educational videos, ensuring that educational outreach extends beyond face-to-face interactions.(26) This finding is further supported by findings from (27), which shows that the use of social media as a health promotion tool has been proven to increase insight and encourage healthier behavior changes among adolescents. Combining the role of nurses as educators in the field with the advantages of social media can expand the reach of education. By involving schools, community health centers, and community leaders, nurses can integrate conventional and digital educational approaches simultaneously.

Relationship between age and adolescent knowledge

The findings of this study indicate a correlation between respondents' age and their level of knowledge regarding the impacts of early marriage. For the 14-16-year-olds, 57 (86.4%) showed a good knowledge of it. The two variables are significantly associated (P-value =

0.004<0.05) in terms of age and knowledge level as deduced using a statistical method. This is because age isn't just a 'number', and is heavily associated with how a person absorbs information. As individuals age, they experience increasing cognitive, social, and emotional maturity. In cognitive development, age significantly influences the formation of thought patterns, analytical abilities, and understanding of information received. As age increases, comprehension, maturity of thought, and the ability to critically assess information develop. This is reinforced (28), which shows that age influences the ability to capture information, process it, and follow it up in the form of more mature knowledge.

This opinion is strengthened (14), which found that late-Adolescents were more likely to have good knowledge about early marriage. In the study, 33.3% of late adolescents had good knowledge, and statistical analysis showed a significant correlation between age and the level of knowledge of young women. Therefore, it can be concluded that the greater an adolescent's maturity, the more likely they are to understand the risks of early marriage. According to Jean Piaget's cognitive development theory, adolescents aged 12 and above enter the formal operational stage, during which they are capable of abstract, logical, and systematic thinking. Adolescents in this phase are beginning to consider the consequences of an action and connect information to their experiences. In the context of adolescents at Islamic Junior High School, the majority are between the ages of 14 and 16, which is the transition period from concrete operations to formal operations.

Therefore, exposure to appropriate information supports adolescents' critical thinking. Accurate and reliable information about the impacts of early marriage can enhance their knowledge and foster critical thinking in making decisions about their future. Thus, age is an important factor associated with adolescents' level of knowledge regarding the consequences of early marriage. This fact underpins the need for age-appropriate education, ensuring that the material delivered is targeted and easily understood by adolescents at every stage of their development.

CONCLUSION

The relationship between the determinant variables (age, parental education, parental income and source of information) and adolescents' knowledge on the impacts of early marriage could be seen at MTs Al-Ishlah Rancaekek. The government is recommended to play a more active role in policy formulation and implementation of policies towards enhancing adolescent knowledge about implications of early marriage. It should be a collaborative effort between the education, health and community

empowerment sectors. Schools and parents must play their role to provide correct information to the students and their families about the risks of underage marriage.

Consequently, future researchers may benefit from expanding the scope of their studies, both in terms of the number of respondents and the research locations, to enhance the generalizability of the findings. In addition, qualitative research methods could provide a deeper understanding of the perceptions, experiences, and cultural factors that shape adolescents' knowledge about early marriage.

Conflict of Interest

No potential conflicts of interest relevant to this article were reported.

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