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### RESEARCH ARTICLE

#### PERSONAL REFERENCES & PERSONAL AUTONOMY ADOLESCENTS TO GENRE CONCEPT RELATED TO EARLY CHILDHOOD MARRIAGE IN KABALUTAN ISLAND CENTRAL SULAWESI

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#### Abstract

Adolescent acceptance of early marriage is responded positively and negatively. This is because of external factors, namely personal references or internal factors, namely personal autonomy. The GENRE program which focuses on adolescents is expected to be an innovative solution in preparing adolescents for family life.

This study aims to analyze personal references and personal autonomy of adolescents towards the acceptance of the GENRE concept regarding early marriage on Kabalutan island. This study is a qualitative research with explanatory approach. Data collection was conducted with Focus Group Discussion and in-depth interviews conducted on 14 informants consisting of adolescents, parents of teenagers and local community leaders. To obtain factors that encourage personal references and personal autonomy, the data are analyzed using taxonomic analysis.

This study succeeded in finding the determination of the decision of adolescent Kabalutan influenced by family and community environment. Adolescent who decide to get married early because they feel ready and mature by having a job. Teenagers who decide to postpone marriage age have reasons to continue their studies, get a job and look for work experience outside the Kabalutan. Adolescent reference figures are peers, teenage siblings (guardians) and health workers (PLKB). Adolescent' personal references are peers, parents and health workers (PLKB). Adolescents who have reference figures tend to accept GENRE and delay marriage. Whereas adolescents who do not have, reasoned that they felt equal to their friends so that no one was worthy of emulation. Therefore, to change the mind set of the Kabalutan community, recommended for BKKBN and related cross-sectors to make the Kabalutan island as a target area with the priority of adolescent and family development and GENRE to be an activity in the Student Council, especially in high school islands.

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**Introduction:-**

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have the aim of "achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls" with one of the targets being to eliminate all forms of dangerous practices such as early marriage and forced marriage".

The World Health Organization (WHO) defines early marriage is a marriage conducted by a partner or one of their partners is still categorized as a teenager under the age of 19 (WHO, 2006).

Early marriage gives a greater risk to adolescent girls especially in aspects of reproductive health (Landung et al., 2009). Girls aged 10-19 years have a five times greater risk of dying in cases of pregnancy and childbirth than women aged 20-24 years, and globally deaths caused by pregnancy are the main cause of death for girls aged 15-19 years (BPS and UNICEF, 2016).

Early marriage practices are caused by many influencing factors including personal references or reference characters and personal autonomy or the personal autonomy of adolescents. Early marriage is responded positively and negatively. This is due to the high teenage sex drive, the influence of the environment that starts permissively and almost without limits. In the end physically, children can mature more quickly. But if viewed psychologically, economically, religiously, socially and other forms of independence, early marriage may not necessarily be able to build a new community called family (Tsani, 2012).

Early marriage on Kabalutan island was high at 30% (PLKB Interview, 12/01/2019, 11.00 WITA). This island with an area of 15.13 km<sup>2</sup> has a population of 2,295 people with the largest distribution in the age group of 10-24 years namely 38% of the total population and most of the people are Bajo ethnic (Kabalutan, 2018).

Based on the results of the preliminary study, the cause of the high rate of early marriage is largely caused by two things. First, most parents have the understanding that if the child can make money himself or herself is considered an adult (still under 19 years) and the second is teenagers who already have income, their association no longer receives supervision from parents (TOMA Interview, 12/01/2019, 16.17 WITA and teenagers, 12/01/2019, 19.30 WITA).

In a study conducted by the Central Sulawesi BKKBN, child marriages in SULTENG had reached 31.91% in 2015 (BKKBN, 2017). The 2016 BPS data shows that one of the highest contributors is Tojo Una Una district at 23% (BPS and UNICEF, 2016).

UNICEF (2014) reported 1 in 6 Indonesian girls married before the age of 18. Susenas (2012) also shows that women aged 10-15 years or 11.13 percent and 16 dan 18 years or 32.10 percent have ever been married (Susenas, 2012).

The Council Foreign Relations (CFR) study states that the phenomenon of child marriage is found in many parts of the world such as South Asia (46.90%), Sub-Saharan Africa (37.30%), Latin America (29%), East Asia and the Pacific (17.60%), Middle East and North Africa (Vogelstein, 2013). Indonesia was a country with a high percentage of child marriages in the world (rank 37) and the second highest in ASEAN after Cambodia (UI, 2016).

Regarding the adolescent problem, GENRE is expected to be present as a solution. This program is implemented through 2 approaches, namely the Youth Approach itself PIK R / M and the approach to families that have teenagers (BKR). PIK R / M is a place managed from by and for adolescents to provide information and counseling services on reproductive health and other supporting activities. Whereas, BKR is a forum for activities carried out to improve the knowledge, attitudes and behavior of adolescent parents in the context of developing adolescent growth (BKKBN, 2012).

The uniqueness of the GENRE is the adolescent reproductive health counseling service carried out by peer counselors/ educators, where GENRE is expected to be an effective educational media on adolescent and other reproductive health issues positively. A study (2014) shows that peer group education can increase knowledge about the maturation of marriage age in adolescents, both in urban and rural areas (Follona dkk, 2014).

Based on these problems it is expected that there will be a study of the prevention of early marriage through adolescent health education. The researcher also wanted to find out how the influence of personal references and personal autonomy of adolescents on the acceptance of GENRE especially if faced with the problem of early marriage.

### **Generation Plan Concept (Genre)**

The GENRE program is a program developed in the framework of preparing family life for adolescents so that they are able to carry out a planned education level, have a career in a planned work, and get married in accordance with the reproductive health cycle (BKKBN, 2016).

The 4 substances of the GENRE program are:

1. Population and Family Development
2. Adolescent Reproductive Health
3. Life Skills
4. Planning for Family Life

Of the four substances of the GENRE program which are the focus of early marriage, the fourth substance is family planning. This concept is formulated into the Marriage Age Maturity program, which is an effort to increase the age of the first marriage, so that at the time of marriage, women can reach a minimum age of 20 years and men – men aged 25 years.

The main purpose of maturing the age of marriage is to provide understanding and awareness to adolescents so that in planning their families they can consider various aspects of relating to family life. Be it physical, mental, emotional, educational, social, economic readiness and determine the amount of birth distance (BKKBN, 2016).

## **Materials And Methods:-**

### **Location and Design of Research**

This research was carried out on Kabalutan island in the district of Talatako, Tojo una una, Central Sulawesi. The type of research used is qualitative with explanatory approach.

### **Population and Sample**

The informant selection technique in this study was purposive based on the predetermined criterias. Informants consisted of teenagers, teen parents and community leaders. Characteristics of informants are teenagers who are premature marriages, unmarried adolescents, parents of teenagers, both young people who are early marriages and not, and community leaders are PLKB and school teachers.

### **Data collection**

Secondary data was obtained by gathering information and documents from BP2KB Tojo Una una, PLKB in Talatako sub-district and Kabalutan village office.

Primary data is obtained by conducting focus group discussions and in-depth interviews with each informant by asking questions in the form of interview guidelines.

### **Data analysis**

The data analysis technique used in this study was carried out by taxonomic analysis to show more relationships between things within the cultural domain.

## **Result:-**

Kabalutan Island is one of the villages located in the Togeian archipelago, precisely in Tojo Una Una District, Central Sulawesi. Kabalutan Island is located just north of Tomini bay, south of the Walea strait, west of Togeian sub-district and east of Walea Kepulauan sub-district. This island with an area of 15.13 km<sup>2</sup> has a population of 2,295 people with the largest distribution in the age group of 10-24 years which is 883 people (Data Desa Kabalutan, 2018). Kabalutan is the island with the densest population in the Togeian archipelago, which is mostly inhabited by Bajo tribes with livelihoods average as fishermen.

Table 1 shows the characteristics of the main informants, namely teenagers who married early or not, on average teenagers under 19 years with high school education (graduated or not). The main informants were 8 teenagers.

**Table 1:-**Characteristics of teenage informants in Kabalutan

No	Informant Code	Gender M/W	Age	School
			(Years)	
1	CN	W	17	High School
2	GT	W	15	Junior High School
3	WT	W	19	High School (not finished)
4	PP	W	18	High School (not finished)
5	WD	W	19	Junior High School (not finished)
6	WD	M	23	High School
7	SR	M	17	High School
8	MB	M	19	High School

Source: primary data and secondary data, April – May 2019

Table 2 shows the characteristics of supporting informants who were parents of teenagers who had married early or not, health workers, namely Family Planning Field Officers (PLKB) and teachers. Supporting informants numbered 6 people.

**Table 2:-**Characteristics of local community leaders informants and parents in Kabalutan

No	Informant Code	Gender M/W	Age	School	Occupation
			(year)		
1	SL	M	31	Bachelor	PLKB
2	MM	M	46	High School	Teacher
3	WK	M	30	High School (not finished)	Fisherman
4	NL	W	24	High School	Housewife
5	AJ	M	40	No School	Fisherman
6	IS	W	35	No School	Housewife

Source: primary data and secondary data, April – May 2019

### Personal References

Early marriage is something that is taught in Kabalutan. The theory proposed by Notoatmodjo (2007) says that a person's behavior is more influenced by people who are considered important. If someone is considered important to him, then what is said or done by that person tends to be imitated.

The findings in this study are the presence or absence of adolescent reference figures that underlie adolescent attitudes toward GENRE and early marriage. This variable is divided into two domains: teenagers who have role models and adolescents who have no role models.

The group of adolescents who have role models are found to be taxonomically analyzed because of the desire to be better in the future (continuing their studies and seeking experience outside the island of Kabalutan) and they tend to be restricted by their parents.

Groups of adolescents who do not have role models are found to have taxonomic analysis, they felt that there was nothing different from him and a friend. Everything is the same including future plans and tends to be given freedom by parents in association.

Peers can have an influence, both positive and negative. The results in this study indicate that the better the influence of peers, the better the behavior of adolescents in association with friends or the opposite sex. Jennings et al (2015) said that teenagers' interest in sexual health issues is higher when delivered by peers. Green (1980), the reference group is one that encourages behavior. Besides Notoadmodjo (2012), in order for the realization of an attitude to be a real behavior another driving factor is needed. These factors are in the form of facilities and support from other parties in this case personal references in a residential environment.

Community groups in the social environment can influence adolescents, so that there is a desire or tendency to follow or imitate what is in the environment and the effect of early marriage is closely related to the incidence of early marriage (Ela, 2014).

In general, adolescents tend to have conformist attitudes or in line with people's attitudes considered important. This tendency, among others, is motivated by the desire to affiliate and the desire to avoid conflict with important people.

### **Personal Autonomy**

Personal autonomy is a thing that cannot be separated from human daily life. Every time people make a process of choosing to make decisions, ranging from simple things to things that are considered to have a big impact on life. Snehandu B. Kar (1983) says personal autonomy is someone's personal autonomy related to decision making.

Personal autonomy in this study is the freedom of adolescents to choose what they want and don't want to do, which is divided into domains that determine delaying the age of marriage and the domain of early marriage. According to the taxonomy the domain that determines the delay in the age of marriage is due to the desire to continue their studies and seek work experience outside the island of Kabalutan.

The domain of teenagers who decide to marry at an early age has reasoned to be married and has grown up with a job. Another reason is the desire to be a filial child by obeying the wishes of parents.

Against marriage, parents have a greater contribution both to be carried out too early or in an effort to delay the child's marriage age. The role of parents in determining a child's marriage is influenced by family socio-economic factors, family education level, beliefs and customs that apply in the family and family-owned abilities in dealing with adolescent problems (Landung et al., 2009).

Adolescents who decide to get married early in life no one continues their education to a higher level or prefers to stop or continue until finished or graduating (Arimurti, 2017).

The findings of this study were parents of early marriage participants who tend to encourage their children to have early marriage. The reason for this is that if their children are married, then take responsibility as parents and to avoid negative perceptions of the environment about their daughters who are already illiterate and unmarried.

The existence of family support for the continuity of early marriage is basically inseparable from the level of knowledge of parents that can also be related to the level of family education. Parents have a low understanding of the family environment by seeing that family life will create a better relationship in the family order so marriage that is increasingly fast becomes the main solution for parents (Liana, 2013).

Simin et al (2016), adolescents believe that they are not mature enough and do not have sufficient autonomy in marriage decision making. Therefore, they cannot overcome parental authority over early marriage. The personal autonomy of adolescents is low due to lack of adequate life skills including decision making, problem solving, negotiation, and critical thinking skills (UNICEF, 2005).

The decision to get married at an early age apart from the urging of parents is also encouraged by the desire of the teenager himself. Adolescents feel satisfied to get married if they like each other and agree to be husband and wife, have been married, and have jobs to fulfill their daily lives. Community leaders in Kabalutan said early marriage there was caused by teenagers who tended not to get supervision from their parents and permissive attitude towards the environment.

### **Conclusion:-**

Based on the results of research conducted on the island of Kabalutan, it can be concluded that adolescents who have a reference shop tend to accept GENRE and delay marriage, Teenage reference figures are peers, teenage' sister (guardians) and health workers (PLKB). Whereas adolescents who do not have role models are due to the feeling that they are equal to friends so that no one deserves to be imitated.

Determination of teenagers' personal decisions is strongly influenced by the family and community environment. Teenagers who decide to get married early because they feel bad because they already have a job and feel they was

adults. Teenagers who determine delaying marriage age have reasons to want to continue their studies, get a job and look for experience outside the island of Kabalutan.

Therefore, to change the mindset of the Kabalutan community about early marriage and can apply the GENRE concept in everyday life, recommended for BKKBN and related cross-sectors to make the island of Kabalutan as a target area with the priority of adolescent and family development and GENRE to be an activity in the Student Council especially in high school island regions.

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