

Improving the Community's Socio-Economic Quality Through Counseling on the Prevention of Early Marriage

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Abstract

Adolescence is when education, experience, and the search for identity in the social environment. However, it is different in Parungponteng Village, Parungponteng District. Many social and legal cases have befallen its citizens, namely the rise of underage marriages. The age limit for marriage has been regulated by law. However, citizens' right to form a family and continue offspring through legal marriage, as stated in the 1945 Constitution, is to disseminate an understanding of the laws and regulations that govern it. Pre-test and post-test were also conducted to determine the level of understanding of the community. The results of counseling show that the understanding of early marriage is increasing. The results of the pre-test evaluation averaged 48.60 m after the post-test reached 69.56. Teenagers do early marriage with an age range of 15 to 17 years; some as young as 13 have married due to social, economic, and environmental factors. After knowing and understanding, the people of Parungponteng Village will be able to comply with the rules and improve the social and economic life of the community through land use activities that can contribute to meeting the necessities of life so that early marriages can be prevented.

Keywords: Early marriage; resolve; social-economy

Introduction

Parungponteng Village is one of the villages in the Parungponteng Subdistrict, South Tasikmalaya Regency, with a total of 8 (eight) villages and community service partners. Parungponteng Village with a population of 4,803 people from an area of 482,968KM² (BPS, 2022). Parungponteng Village's population from 0 to 19 years is 710 men and 618 women, with a total of 1,328 people and adolescents between the ages of 13 - 19 years are 232 people (BPS, 2020).

Parungponteng Village is located in the Parung Ponteng District area, Tasikmalaya Regency area, and located towards the south at a distance of approximately 30 Km from the Regency capital and the distance from the Perjuangan University campus is almost the same as well as approximately 30 KM. Geographically it is located in 108° 09 – 108° 24 and 7.23° – 7.29° with regional boundaries. To the north, it is bounded by Sukaraja District and to the east by Tanjungjaya District. To the south, it is bounded by Bojongasih District and Bantarkalong District; to the west, it is bounded by Sodonghilir District. (BPS, 2020)

From many residents, there are problems in social life or social ailments, especially those that clash with social, economic, and legal factors in Parungponteng. The problems that are often encountered are ignorance or lack of understanding of law in general, where we are often faced with problems regarding land disputes, divorce caused by infidelity, pregnancy out of wedlock, child marriage, theft, unemployment, dropping out of school, and others.

This time the Community Service Proposal Team will highlight one of the many existing problems. Among them are problems regarding underage marriages and economic problems, which are one of the causes or factors in the occurrence of underage marriages. The frequent occurrence of underage marriages is due to the association of adolescents in Parungponteng

between young men and young women who are very concerned and worried about their parents. So, as parents, they take the only path that must be taken is to marry off their children, so they do not avoid adultery (Dewi, 2018). Besides that, another factor is the economy. Where relatively low economic conditions make early marriage actors decide to marry. For example, because there are no school fees which is their reason for dropping out of school rather than being unemployed, it is better to marry, or because parents want to reduce the burden of family life costs (Sandya & Sodik, 2015).

Parungponteng Village has 232 teenagers aged between 13 and 19 years. The interview results estimated that the people who marry earlier than should be specified to whom 50 people and the average of teenagers married at the age of 15. Teenagers even married at 13 years old due to being pregnant out of wedlock. There were almost 25 people, and the remaining 25 for various reasons, including ignorance of the rules. Another reason, namely often watching exciting scenes on the internet via mobile phones, so they wanted to get married quickly, the very close association between men and women and shallow religious knowledge.

Table 1. Causes of Early Marriage in Parungponteng Village

No.	Causes of Early Marriage	Total (people)	Percentage (%)
1	Unwed pregnancy	25	50
2	Too long dating	8	16
3	Parents will	10	20
4	No/dropped out of school	7	14
	Amount	50	100

Adolescents at these ages are biologically undergoing hormonal changes toward adulthood or puberty. This puberty period is supported by supporting facilities and infrastructure, such as inadequate education from parents, associations, communication technology, and others. The results of preliminary interviews with the community regarding the causes of early marriage occurring in Parungponteng Village are shown in table 1.

From the table above, we can conclude that the factors that encourage early marriage can be grouped into groups where pregnancy out of wedlock and courtship for too long are social factors. At the same time, the will of parents and not/dropping out of school are economic factors. Parents should know the negative impact of underage marriages are carried out; otherwise, it will add new problems instead of solving problems by forcing them to carry out Marriage (Suriani & Pratiwi, 2019). This problem causes inconvenience to all parties, both parents with teenage children and officials or local community leaders, so the unrest in people's lives in Parungponteng Village feels disturbed.

Based on the results of interviews with the people in Parung Ponteng Village, we see that early marriage occurs due to ignorance from the community regarding the limits of early marriage because some people do not have higher education. The attitude of the KUA (Office of Religious Affairs) officers who do not want to marry off these teenagers should be understood, but the community always takes shortcuts by getting married in a series.

The problem of early marriage occurs if we address that marriage is a right for a person, as contained in the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia. The constitution amended (second amendment) in Article 28B paragraph 1, which reads: "Everyone has the right to form a family and continue offspring through a legal marriage" (MPR, 1945). However, on the other hand, underage marriages are not permitted by existing laws and regulations in Indonesia, namely Law Number 16 of 2019 concerning Amendments to Law Number 1 of 1974 concerning marriage which took effect in October 2019 (MPR, 2019).

Based on the problems in Parungponteng, we are trying to help or find solutions to solve problems faced by the local community. The existing problems are related to a social aspect.

Teenagers are a very close relationship between young men and women (dating). The students in Elementary school or junior high school children are already dating, so the situation becomes very severe with negative social behavior and destructive relationships between young men and women who have gone too far, which resulted in getting pregnant out of wedlock.

With this series of incidents, many new problems have arisen, including social ones, the association between teenage boys and girls is unhealthy because it destroys the social and cultural life of the Indonesian people, which is based on Pancasila values. Aspects of social religion, as above, are prohibited or not allowed by religion. Furthermore, for legal aspects, apart from violations, because we continue to carry out underage marriages where we are disobedient or disobedient to the law, there will be an impact on these violations (Musjtari, 2018).

Furthermore, a new problem will arise, such as pregnancy out of wedlock will result in a complicated status of children born out of wedlock. The more worrying is that if abortion or abortion occurs because teenagers who are dating are not ready to have children, this will cause criminal law problems, which are heavy for the teenager (MPR, 1981). The economic problem is where the parents' economic limitations reduce the burden on the family economy by immediately marrying off their children so that parents are released from responsibility in supporting their children's lives because they will switch to their husbands. Teenagers are unemployed because they drop out of school or do not attend school and then choose to get married.

Therefore, the activity that we will carry out to solve this problem is to hold legal awareness counseling about understanding the minimum age limit permitted by laws and regulations for adolescents of the Karang Taruna in Parungponteng Village and their parents. Partners in the service here, Parung Ponteng Village, will gather or gather village communities, especially teenagers and parents, to get counseling from the service team and provide facilities where these activities can be carried out.

Adolescents who have no activities and are not at school to fill their free time instead of just hanging out, wandering around, or playing for purpose and benefits need to be clarified. Efforts are made to take advantage of this free time by participating in paralegal skills training activities as an ongoing step of legal counseling carried out by the service team. In the future young people who take part in training activities can empower their abilities in legal skills. In addition to solving legal problems that they experience themselves, they can also help other people who have legal problems or seek justice.

The next factor is the economic factor. Low economic conditions or poverty made early marriage actors decide to get married. Unprivileged and having no school fees are their reason for dropping out. The activities of teenagers are more filled with playing gadgets whose benefits are not transparent because they do not think about getting benefits other than just for communication, looking for risky content, and playing *games*. Although in the gadget there is also helpful information.

Based on the main problems described above, the problem of marriage below the minimum age limit, which the people of Parungponteng Village often carry out due to the community's ignorance about the applicable laws and regulations governing the minimum age limit for marriage. This ignorance or lack of understanding is because some people in Parungponteng Village have a low educational background.

Based on the circumstances and conditions of the people in Parung Ponteng Village, the Community Service team will carry out outreach activities that are a solution to these problems. Including counseling on legal awareness to understand the early age limit because the community does not know the age limit for a wedding. Providing understanding and deepening of religious knowledge to improve adolescents' social behavior with boundaries prohibited and permitted by religion and to overcome economic problems that are a cause or a factor in the emergence of early marriages by forming groups to improve agricultural skills and processing agricultural products.

With the dissemination of legal understanding regarding the age limit for early marriage, it is hoped that the community will know or know about it. Providing education so that people comply with applicable laws and regulations governing the life of society, nation, and State. So here it is hoped that the community will become aware of the applicable rules and obey them because of their awareness. Counseling is carried out by a team of dedicated youth and parents as members of the community or residents of the village of Parungponteng, as well as economic level development activities by forming groups to improve agricultural skills and processing of agricultural products.

Legal counseling is one of the activities of disseminating information and understanding legal norms and applicable laws and regulations in order to realize and develop the legal basis of society to create a legal culture in the form of an orderly and obedient to the applicable legal norms and laws and regulations for the sake of upholding the rule of law (Kemenkumham, 2018). This activity aims to form or develop a group of independent people to solve social, economic, and legal problems in Parungponteng. The community becomes aware that marrying early should not be done and violates existing rules.

After the community knows this, we can see whether the community will realize and obey these rules or even violate them. Suppose some members of the public are aware of these rules and violate the rules for the age limit for early marriage. In that case, the service team will provide educational counseling on legal awareness about obeying the rules that apply in social life. Furthermore, providing counseling about understanding and deepening religion regarding prohibited behavior and associations and recommendations based on religion so that people who make mistakes or violations besides there are legal sanctions from rules imposed by the State, there are other sanctions from God if we sin. People are oriented to use valuable gadgets for their future. Provide counseling on using yards and yards or walls and roofs of houses by planting plants with high nutritional and economic value to improve their economy.

METHODS

The counseling is carried out face-to-face in each activity by delivering material in the form of PowerPoint (Ppt) and related videos via an InFocus screen and material printed in parts to each counseling participant because this will be carried out legal counseling with the following stages: stages as follows:

1. Taking inventory of underage community members, both married and still in school.
2. Research partners will gather training participants, namely the community consisting of teenagers and parents, to be given legal awareness counseling and provide a place to carry out counseling activities.
3. Providing counseling on legal awareness regarding understanding the age limit for marriage as determined by laws and regulations, namely socialization of material regarding the minimum age limit for marriage according to applicable laws. By disseminating this material, it is hoped that youth who are members of youth organizations and their parents will know or come to know and understand the minimum age limit for marriage based on applicable laws and regulations.
4. Counseling about material regarding legal steps that can be taken if someone forces them to marry below the specified minimum age. Converting this material is expected that teenagers and parents know what legal steps must be taken and know the legal procedures for carrying out marriages below the legal age limit.
5. Educational counseling about understanding and awareness of community obedience to comply with applicable laws and regulations. In submitting this material, it is hoped that the public will become obedient and obedient to the laws in force in Indonesia.
6. Submission of material on understanding religion to remind the public about the limits of prohibitions and recommendations regarding behavior and actions determined by religion is

conveyed so that people are aware that in addition to state law where religious law also provides a sanction for a sin we commit.

7. Forming a group to manage the yard of the house into an economic potential by planting spices and horticulture activities that have economic value and can contribute to household income internally and externally. Either selling the harvest or processing it first gets added value.
8. Monitoring Community Changes.

After further counseling, the service team monitors the people in Parungponteng, namely whether the community becomes obedient or disobedient to laws and regulations regarding the minimum age limit for marriage or violations are found, and it is also known what the symptoms that cause violations are.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

After conducting counseling about preventing marriage at an early age, along with all the impacts or consequences that arise as a consequence of early marriage, the people of Parungponteng Village understand and are aware of it. The consequences are proven by the people of Parungponteng Village, who feel afraid and do not want to take risks from the impacts or consequences of these early marriages. Especially the legal impact if there is a violation of the rules related to the age limit for marriage and forcing a marriage whose marriage is not registered at the Office of Religious Affairs where the child's legal status in the marriage becomes unclear.

The rule of law should be obeyed by society in facing the realities of life today, and society needs laws that can regulate people's social life so that a better life can be created (Irani, 2015). If the marriage that occurs does not violate the existing legal rules, then the status of the marriage and the status of the children born in the marriage becomes unclear. So all the rules and actions of the State, including the rules regarding the prohibition of underage marriages, aim to create prosperity or benefit for the community (Sitorus, 2020).

A person who is going to marry is considered an adult if he can distinguish between right and wrong so that he can build a household and avoid fights that can lead to divorce. In the event of a wedding, it will have an impact on all aspects of the social life of the community, and marriage is not only a matter for the two parties of the prospective bride and groom (Rahmawati, 2020). As parents are obliged to prevent early marriage, where this is a necessity as stated in the Child Protection Act Article 26 paragraph (1) part 3 (RI, 2002).

Likewise, the impact of early marriages that cause social discomfort in society and the low level of education and the economy is a burden for parents who marry their children underage. Early marriage also affects the social level of society because they are unproductive children or adolescents. Moreover, dealing with the unproductive condition of the youth in Parungponteng Village instead of living a life with behavior leads to juvenile delinquency. Especially for teenagers who drop out of school or do not work, by providing counseling and ways to utilize the yard or land available space to grow valuable crops that can support family expenses. Yard land can be used for food, horticulture, medicine, or other plants that are likely to be able to meet family needs. Besides that, it can also increase household income if adequately planned and designed (Sudalmi et al., 2020). Empowerment of narrow land or yards can counteract failure in achieving food security in family life (Surtinah, 2019). Things like this can provide other activities or activities that can produce.

Table 5. Results of participant evaluations

Participant	Evaluation Value	
	Pre-test	Post-test
1	48	74
2	37	46
3	28	34
4	50	75

Participant	Evaluation Value	
	Pre-test	Post-test
5	45	75
6	45	69
7	39	69
8	45	69
9	48	70
10	54	75
11	56	70
12	60	83
13	48	73
14	43	68
15	43	69
16	45	67
17	50	69
18	55	70
19	30	36
20	46	69
21	65	80
22	45	74
23	44	75
24	63	81
25	65	79
26	45	73
27	55	72
28	55	76
29	51	74
30	55	73

Table 5 shows the test result before and after counseling on preventing early marriage. Based on the table, a conclusion can be drawn that the people of Parungponteng, who previously did not know or knew little about the social, economic, health, and legal impacts of early marriage, have increased their understanding of the community.



Figure 1: The Team Provides Material on the Prevention of Early Marriage



Figure 2: Extension Participants



Figure 3: The Team Provides Material on Socio-Economic Solutions for Early Marriage



Figure 4: Counseling Team and Participants

The average pre-test evaluation results were 48.60 after the post-test reached 69.56. The point is that this counseling provides knowledge that makes the community understand the impacts of early marriage and seeks to prevent too many early marriages or underage marriages. With the age limit requirements set, namely so that the prospective wife and husband feel ready mentally and physically to carry out the marriage so that the goals of the marriage are well realized and do not end in divorce (Hasim & Faturrahim, 2022).

CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

Counseling on preventing early marriages can improve the social and economic quality of the local community. Teenagers and parents can understand the impact of various fields that will occur or the consequences of carrying out early marriages that can damage a person's quality

of life. Adolescents who postpone early marriage can improve their socio-economic quality by utilizing time with activities that can support the economy by utilizing the resources around us. One of them is utilizing yards that can be used successfully.

Religious leaders and the Office of Religious Affairs to always socialize related to efforts to prevent early marriage so that the people of Parungponteng Village do not forget this.

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