

THE IMPACT OF EARLY MARRIAGE ON PREGNANCY: YOUNG WOMEN'S KNOWLEDGE

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ABSTRACT

Women who were married at a young age and got pregnant had a risk of experiencing complications in pregnancy, and contribute 99% of maternal and infant deaths. Knowledge on the impact of early marriage on pregnancy is needed to prevent an increase of risk pregnancy cases. However, information about the impact of early marriage on pregnancy especially in young women population is limited. This study aimed to determine young women's knowledge about the impact of early marriage on pregnancy in the Margajaya Public Health Center. The design of this study was quantitative descriptive. The population of this research was 81 women who had early marriage, the sample was selected using the total sampling method. Data were collected using a questionnaire with the Gutmann scale and analyzed using frequency distribution. The results of the analysis were categorized as good, sufficient and poor. The results of the study found that most women had good knowledge about the impact of early marriage on pregnancy which was 46 respondents (57%), moderate was 24 respondents (29.6%), and poor were 11 respondents (13.5%). The majority of women had limited understanding about preeclampsia. It was concluded that women's knowledge of early marriage and pregnancy was good, although there was a small number that is moderate and poor. Knowledge of women is less related to preeclampsia and eclampsia, there is a need for health education about preeclampsia and eclampsia for women who had an early marriage.

Keywords: Early Marriage, Impact, Pregnancy, Knowledge.

INTRODUCTION

Early marriage is marriage under the age of 18 (Ali, Ibrahim, Abdelgbar & Elgessim, 2014). The Indonesian constitution Number 1 the Year 1974 article 7 section 1 concerning marriage regulated that marriage is permitted if the man is 19 years old and the woman is 16 years old with parental permission. Around the world, more than 650 million women got married at an early age every day. About one in six women (age 15 to 19 years) are married (UNICEF, 2018). Based on data from the Central Statistics Agency in 2016, the percentage of married women at the age of 16 was 15.69%. West Java was the province with the highest rate of early marriage, especially in rural areas with 29.92%. (BPS, 2016).

Early marriage causes some physical and psychological effects. Women who married early tend to be poor in socializing, quitting education, experiencing divorce, and poor households. In addition, reproductive effects are also experienced by early married women such as pain and trauma during sexual intercourse, lack of knowledge on the

control of the pregnancy distance, and complications that occur during pregnancy or childbirth (Reuben, 2014).

Early married women married who got pregnant are at risk of experiencing complications in pregnancy. The World Health Organization (2018) stated that in developing countries, 21 million women aged 15 to 18 experienced pregnancy and contribute 99% of deaths to mothers and infants. According to Ganchimeg's study, et al. (2013) pregnant women younger than 18 years have a higher risk of developing preeclampsia and eclampsia, postpartum endometritis, and systemic infections. Ezegwui's research, Ikeako, and Ogbuefi (2011) stated that young pregnancy would cause anemia, pelvic disproportion which is an indication of cesarean section, and perinatal death. In addition, the World Health Organization (2018) also stated that giving birth at a young age could increase the risk of harming newborns. Mothers who give birth to babies under the age of 18 years are at higher risk of having children with low birth weight (LBW), premature birth, and complications after birth (WHO, 2018).

Based on the results of a preliminary study from the Margajaya Public Health Center the incidence of LBW (low birth weight babies) in 2016 was 16 babies (14.68%) and increased to 18 babies (15.79%) in 2017. Moreover, the maternal mortality rate (MMR) in 2017 was 1 mother died from severe preeclampsia with a background of marriage at the age of 16 years. Whereas, the mortality rate in 2016 was 10 babies dead caused by Pneumonia, LBW, and Asphyxia.

Identification based on knowledge for the first step in overcoming the impact of early marriage on health aspects needs to be carried out. WHO guidelines for early pregnancy and poor reproductive outcomes among adolescents in developing countries recommends actions and researches to prevent early pregnancy by increasing knowledge and understanding of the importance of preventing or delaying pregnancy before the age of 18 years. Knowledge of cognitive is an important domain for the formation of one's actions (Notoatmodjo, 2007). Qualitative research conducted by Nasrullah, et al. (2014) stated that the majority of respondents who got married early in Pakistan had low education or uneducated, had a low economy, worked as domestic servants, and the majority did not know the negative effects of early marriage on health.

The results of a preliminary study conducted at the Tanjungsari Religious Affairs Office said that bride and groom should receive guidance from the Public Health Center, Religious Affairs Office and Special Bride and Groom Advisory Board. The public health center has the responsibility to explain about delaying pregnancy and providing information about the impact of early marriage on health, but this responsibility is not

performed, and guidance from religious affair office is also obstructed due to various reasons. The cadre of the Margajaya Public Health Center informed that early married women were not educated. However, information about the impact of early marriage on pregnancy especially in young women population is limited. This study aimed to examine women's knowledge of the impact of early marriage on pregnancy in the work area of the Margajaya Public Health Center.

METHODS

The type of this research was descriptive quantitative. The population in this study were married women aged ≤ 18 in 2017 in the Margajaya Community Health Center area which include Margajaya, Kutamandiri, Raharja, Gunungmanik, and Cinanjung Villages. 81 young women were participated in this study.

Data collection used a closed questionnaire contained 24 items with the alternative answer of "True" and "False". Data analysis was performed by the descriptive method by looking at the percentage of data collected then presented in the form of a frequency distribution table. The measurement results of knowledge were categorized into good, sufficient, and poor knowledge. Good knowledge was categorized if the respondent answered $\geq 75\%$ correctly, sufficient knowledge if the respondent answered 56% -75% correctly and poor if the answer were $<55\%$ correct. This research received permission from the Research Ethics Commission of Padjadjaran University with ethical numbers 737 / IN6.KEP / EC / 2018.

RESULT

The characteristics of respondents and women's knowledge about the impact of early marriage on pregnancy are as follows:

Table 1 Characteristic of Respondents (n=81)

Characteristic	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
Age during Marriage		
10-14 years	8	9,9
15-18years	73	90,1
Last Education		
Elementary School	20	24,7
Junior High School	51	63
Senior High School	10	12,3

Occupation		
Yes	9	11,1
No	72	88,9
Religion		
Moslem	81	100
Number of Children		
0	9	11,1
1-2	58	71,6
> 2	14	17,3
Income		
< Rp2.678.028,99	71	87,7
≥ Rp2.678.028,99	10	12,3
Information about pregnancy		
Yes	51	63
No	30	37
Information Sources		
Book	2	2,5
Internet	10	12,3
Counseling	9	11,1
Health Workers (Doctor, Nurse, Midwives)	30	37

Based on table 1 the age of respondents during the first marriage was 15-18 years as many as 73 respondents (90.1%). The number of respondents with last education in junior high school were more than respondents with elementary school and high school, namely 51 respondents (63%). The highest number of children from respondents is 1-2 children, 58 respondents (71.6%). The major income was <Rp. 2,678,028.99 with 71 respondents (87.7%). Respondents who received information about the impact of early marriage on pregnancy were 51 people (63%) with information sources obtained through books 2.5%, 12.3% internet media, 11.1% counseling, and health workers (Doctors, Nurse, Midwife) 37%.

Table 2 Women's knowledge about the impact of early marriage on pregnancy (n=81)

Knowledge Category	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
Good	46	57
Moderate	24	29,6
Poor	11	13,5

Based on table 2 above, respondents with good knowledge were 46 people (57%), sufficient knowledges were 24 people (29.6%) and poor knowledge were 11 people (13.5%).

Tabel 3 Women's knowledge about the impact of early marriage on pregnancy (n=81)

No	Question	True		False	
		F	%	f	%
1	Pregnancy at a young age does not have any harmful risk of health.	61	75,3	20	24,7
2	Pregnancy at a young age <18 years is a factor for a high risk of harmful pregnancy.	76	93,8	5	6,2
3	A harmful pregnancy is a pregnancy that would cause the mother and the fetus to have an illness or die.	75	92,6	6	7,4
4	The high risk of pregnancy and childbirth is due to the lack of physical readiness for women less than 20 years old	76	93,8	5	6,2
5	Early marriage is one way to avoid a high risk of pregnancy	44	54,3	37	45,7
6	Pregnancy at a young age (under 18 years) has a risk of death to both the mother and baby	65	80,2	16	19,8
7	Pregnancy at a young age could lead to stunted fetal growth and even fetal distress	66	81,5	14	17,3
8	Spontaneous abortion is the occurrence of abortion that takes place with an action or intentionally.	30	37	51	63
9	Stress in pregnant women can cause miscarriages	80	98,8	1	1,2
10	Pregnancy at the age of fewer than 18 years is not at risk of miscarriage before the age of the fetus is 20 weeks.	42	51,9	39	48,1

11	Tired, fatigued, dizzy eyes, fast heartbeat, pale face are symptoms of anemia in pregnant women	77	95,1	4	4,9
12	Pregnancy at a young age results in less blood for the mother because of lack of iron during pregnancy	67	82,7	14	17,3
13	Eat nutritious foods would avoid pregnant women from pregnancy disorders	70	86,4	11	13,6
14	The condition of the reproductive organs (vagina, uterus) that are not ready for pregnancy can lead to pregnancy poisoning in the form of eclampsia and preeclampsia	55	67,9	26	32,1
15	Eclampsia is an acute disorder that occurs in pregnant women 20 weeks of gestation / more or 24 hours after labor which is characterized by the presence of convulsions or coma.	64	79	17	21
16	High blood pressure with seizures is called preeclampsia while high blood pressure without seizures in eclampsia	11	13,6	70	86,4
17	Infection during pregnancy does not result in bodily disability or organ function in the fetus	38	46,9	43	53,1
18	Pregnant women under the age of 18 can cause reproductive disorders or diseases.	55	67,9	26	32,1
19	Pregnancy at a young age has the potential to cause infertility due to infection with reproductive organs	35	43,2	46	56,8
20	Premature birth is a baby born too early before 37 weeks of pregnancy	72	88,9	9	11,1
21	Pregnant women younger than 18 years old are not a risk factor for premature birth	44	54,3	37	45,7
22	Babies born prematurely affect the baby's growth	72	88,9	9	11,1

23	Low birth weight (LBW) is a baby whose weight is more than 2,500 grams	55	67,9	26	32,1
24	Infants born with abnormal weight occur due to the lack of nutrients needed	73	90,1	8	9,9

Table 3 above showed women's knowledge about the impact of early pregnancy on the health of women and infants. The impact on women would have a high risk of harmful pregnancy, of which 75 (92.6%) cause pregnant women to become sick or die, 30 (37%) miscarriage, 80 (98.8%) chose to stress in pregnant women, 77 (95.1%) acknowledge signs of anemia. The impact on infants for example 72 (88.9%) answered correctly regarding premature birth, and 72 (88.9%) premature babies affected the growth of the baby.

DISCUSSION

Based on the results of the study, most women know that early marriage have an impact on pregnancy or pregnancy complications. Someone who has a good concept, acknowledge and understand the effects of early marriage to pregnancy would understand the negative impact of having pregnancy in young ages. This can be influenced by several factors such as information obtained, sociodemographic factors such as age, education, experience, environment, and economy. According to Budiman & Riyanto (2013) stated that knowledge is influenced by several factors including education, information, social, economic, environmental, experience, and age.

Early married women with moderate knowledge may not fully understand the impact of early marriage on pregnancy. This is in line with Haque's research, Rahman, Mukti, & Lutfunnahar (2014) 84.61% of respondents had moderate knowledge about the impact of pregnancy at a young age. The results of this study also found that respondents had less knowledge. Lack of knowledge about sex and delay in pregnancy can cause adolescents to have poor knowledge about the impact or the high risk of pregnancy (WHO, 2011). Early married women never think that their immature physique can cause an infant or mother died during childbirth (Roy, 2016). Efforts to increase knowledge of women who got married early about the impact of early marriage is necessary. According to Mubarak (2007) that counseling is a method carried out to increase knowledge so that it can form a certain attitude.

The results of the data showed that majority of the respondents knew that pregnancy at a young age had a high harmful risk for pregnancy and had an impact on death and illness in mothers and infants. As explained by Manuaba (1998) that at the time young women experienced pregnancy, there is a high chance that reproductive health is not optimal and would cause various risks of pregnancy. Thus it is recommended to conduct a health check so that they can prepare themselves for pregnancy in optimal conditions (Manuaba, 1998).

Other data showed that women acknowledge the incidence of spontaneous abortion or miscarriage. In accordance to the study of Husain, Kaeng, and Suparman (2013) the level of respondents' knowledge about spontaneous abortion 55.8% were good. This study also showed that most respondents know that stress could cause miscarriages. Theory of S. Prawirahardjo (2002, in Rahmani, 2014) stated that in early pregnancy the condition of the mother is still unstable and not mentally ready to accept the pregnancy, as a result, the pregnancy is not properly maintained. This condition causes the mother to get stressed easily and increases the risk of abortion.

The majority of women know that tired, fatigued, dizzy, rapid heartbeat, pale face are symptoms of anemia in young women. Many nutritious foods can prevent pregnant women from anemia. This showed that the mother's knowledge of anemia is good. Teenage girls know that young women still experience growth and experience pregnancy, so there is competition for nutrition with the fetus they contain, so the weight of pregnant women is often difficult to rise and accompanied by anemia (Fadlayana & Larasaty, 2009).

Other data regarding the impact of early marriage on preeclampsia and eclampsia and most respondents know that the condition of reproductive organs that are not ready for pregnancy can lead to pregnancy poisoning in the form of preeclampsia and eclampsia. In accordance with Savage and Hoho's study (2016), respondents' knowledge of signs and symptoms of preeclampsia or eclampsia is low. This shows that early married adolescents do not understand if the reproductive organs of early married women are not ready to have intercourse or pregnancy, so if they are pregnant they are at risk of developing high blood pressure because their bodies are not strong enough to experience pregnancy so they will experience preeclampsia (BKKBN, 2016).

Respondents acknowledge that getting married less than 18 years old causes reproductive disorders or diseases such as infections. Respondents also knew about the impact of pregnancy at a young age on premature birth and low birth weight babies. According to Manuaba (2008) the condition of pregnant women under the age of 20 is

still in its growth and is at risk of complications of pregnancy due to biological maternal immaturity, namely the reproductive organs that are not ready so that there is competition for maternal and fetal nutritional needs so that food intake is mostly used to meet the needs of mothers. Therefore, there is a need for health education regarding pregnancy complications, especially LBW, which occurs in pregnant women at a young age.

Based on the results of the analysis, the majority of respondents knew about the impact of early marriage on pregnancy. Budiman and Riyanto (2013) said that education is one of the factors that influence knowledge. Bhandari (2014) stated that there is a relationship between knowledge about the impact of early marriage on pregnancy and the level of education, adolescents with secondary education have good knowledge. In accordance with the characteristics of the respondents of this study, the majority was junior high school education. Nurjanah, Estiwidani, & Purnamaningrum (2013) mentioned that the implementation of informing with teaching method in the education process is a great way of health education to increase students' knowledge about early marriage and its impact. The results of Nurjanah's study, Estiwidani, & Purnamaningrum (2013) found that there was an influence of counseling by increasing knowledge about young age marriage and its problems.

In addition, the results of the study found that the majority of women were knowledgeable because they were supported by facilities that made it easier to obtain information. According to research by Ramadani, Nursal, and Ramli (2015), there is a relationship between the role of health workers and the knowledge of adolescents about pregnancy at a young age. The role of health workers as educators plays a role in implementing guidance or counseling, education of clients, families, and the public regarding reproductive health (Kusnanto, 2004). The role of health workers is carried out in the Youth Care Health Service Program (PKPR) which is a health service to adolescents through special treatment tailored to the needs of adolescents. Providing information by health workers includes immunization of brides, and the impact of early marriage on pregnancy (Ramadani, Nursal, & Ramli, 2015).

CONCLUSION

It was concluded that women's knowledge of early marriage and pregnancy was good, although there was a small number that is moderate and poor, however the majority of women had limited understanding about preeclampsia. Knowledge of women is less related to preeclampsia and eclampsia, there is a need for health education about preeclampsia and eclampsia for women who had an early marriage.

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