



The Relationship Between Socio-Economic and Cultural Status and Teenage Marriage in The Work Area Of Campalagian Community Health Center In 2024

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ABSTRACT

Marriage is a physical and spiritual bond between a man and a woman to build a life together, fostering a family. West Sulawesi Province is the region with the highest rate of early marriage in Indonesia. According to the 2020 National Social and National Survey (SUSENAS) data, the rate of early marriage in West Sulawesi reached 10.05 percent. These figures demonstrate that early marriage remains prevalent in Indonesia.

Purpose: This study aims to examine the relationship between socioeconomic and cultural factors and adolescent marriage in the working area of the Campalagian Health Center.

Methods: An analytic survey with a cross-sectional design was used in this study, conducted in 2024. The population consisted of women of childbearing age (WUS) aged 15–25 years. A total of 87 participants were selected using purposive sampling and the Slovin formula. Data were collected through structured questionnaires and analyzed using the chi-square test with the assistance of SPSS software.

Results: The findings showed a significant relationship between socioeconomic status and adolescent marriage ($p = 0.000 < 0.05$), and between cultural values and adolescent marriage ($p = 0.000 < 0.05$). Among respondents who married before the age of 20, most had lower socioeconomic backgrounds or were influenced by traditions such as early arranged marriages.

Conclusion: There is a significant association between socioeconomic and cultural factors and adolescent marriage in the Campalagian Health Center area. The study

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recommends that the government strengthen education and advocacy programs to reduce early marriage practices and raise awareness of its long-term health and social impacts.

Keywords: socioeconomic; culture; adolescent marriage; early marriage; public health

BACKGROUND

Adolescent marriage, defined as marriage occurring before the age of 20, remains a significant public health and human rights issue. According to WHO, adolescence spans the ages of 10 to 19 years, a transitional period marked by physical, emotional, and psychosocial development. At this stage, individuals are often unprepared—physiologically and psychologically—for the responsibilities of marriage and parenthood (Vir, 2016).

Despite legislative changes in Indonesia, such as the revision of the Marriage Law through Law No. 16 of 2019, which raised the minimum legal age for marriage to 19 years, the prevalence of early marriage remains high. In 2020, approximately 26.55% of women in Indonesia were married between the ages of 16 and 18, and 8.19% before age 16 (Fakhari et al., 2022a). West Sulawesi remains among the provinces with elevated rates of child marriage, with a prevalence of 11.25% in 2023—well above the national average of 9%.

Early marriage has far-reaching health consequences. Physically, adolescent girls face increased risks of pregnancy complications, including obstructed labor, anemia, and preterm birth. Psychologically, early marriage is linked to social isolation and greater vulnerability to domestic violence and emotional distress (Noor, 2018).

Socioeconomic and cultural factors continue to drive adolescent marriage. Families facing economic hardship often view early marriage as a means to reduce financial burdens. In some rural areas, cultural norms such as arranged marriage, fear of “remaining unmarried,” or preserving family honor promote the practice of marrying girls at a young age (Rofika & Hariastuti, 2020).

In the study, parents tend to marry their children early due to economic factors, less than schooling (Bennett L R, 2014; Fakhari et al., 2022b; Yuniati et al., 2023). they are afraid their children will not marry until they are older, and some parents marry their children due to pregnancy out of wedding. parents assume that their children will already have someone to support their parents and will not be a burden on their parents.

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A preliminary survey conducted in the working area of Campalagian Health Center revealed persistent practices of child marriage, often rooted in intergenerational traditions and economic motives. These findings underscore the need to explore the influence of socioeconomic and cultural determinants on early marriage within this region (Bennett L R, 2014; Mehra et al., 2018; Sezgin & Punamäki, 2020).

Based on the preliminary study, the researcher aimed to observe the relationship between economic and social-cultural factors and early marriage among teenagers at the campalagian public health center.

OBJECTIVE

This study aims to analyze the relationship between socioeconomic status and cultural factors with the incidence of adolescent marriage in the working area of the Campalagian Health Center in 2024.

METHODS

This study utilized an analytical survey with a cross-sectional design to examine the relationship between socioeconomic and cultural factors and adolescent marriage. The research was conducted in 2024 in the working area of the Campalagian Health Center, West Sulawesi, Indonesia.

The target population consisted of women of childbearing age (WUS) aged 15–25 years. A total sample of 87 respondents was selected using purposive sampling and calculated using the Slovin formula. Inclusion criteria included women who were married and resided permanently in the Campalagian area during the study period.

The instrument used for data collection was a questionnaire that had undergone validity and reliability tests. The questionnaire covered variables related to socioeconomic status, cultural influences, and age at first marriage. Socioeconomic status was categorized into "high" and "low" based on income, education, and occupation, while cultural factors were assessed based on the presence of traditional practices such as arranged marriage, early betrothal, and community norms regarding marriage age.

The collected data were processed and analyzed using the Chi-square test to determine the association between independent variables (socioeconomic status and cultural factors) and the dependent variable (adolescent marriage). Statistical analysis was conducted using SPSS software, with a significance threshold set at $p < 0.05$.

Ethical approval for the study was obtained from the institutional review board, and informed consent was secured from all respondents prior to participation.

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RESULTS

Socioeconomic Status

As shown in Table 1, the majority of respondents (62.1%) were categorized as having high socioeconomic status, while 37.9% had low socioeconomic status. This distribution suggests a relatively favorable economic profile among the women of childbearing age surveyed in the Campalagian Health Center area.

Table 1. Socioeconomic Status Distribution

Socioeconomic Status	Frequency	Percent
Low	33	37,9
High	54	62,1
Total	87	100.0

Source: Primary data 2024

Cultural Orientation

Table 2 presents the cultural orientation of respondents regarding marriage. A significant proportion (65.5%) reported living in cultural environments that do not support adolescent marriage, while 34.5% were influenced by traditions that support early marriage practices such as arranged marriage or concerns over social stigma

Tabel 2. Culture Orientation Distribution.

Culture Orientation	Frequency	Percent
Supportive early marriage	30	34,5
No Supportive early marriage	57	65,5
Total	87	100.0

Source: Primary data 2024

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Adolescent Marriage Distribution

According to **Table 3**, 26.4% of respondents were married between the ages of 15 and 19, classifying them under adolescent marriage. The remaining 73.6% were married at the age of 20 or older. This indicates that although the majority delay marriage, a notable percentage still experience early marriage.

Tabel 3. Adolescent Marriage Distribution

Adolescent Marriage	Frequency	Percent
Age of marriage 15-19 years	23	26,4
Age of marriage \geq 20 years	64	73,6
Total	87	100.0

Source: Primary data 2024

Association between Socioeconomic Status and Adolescent Marriage

As detailed in Table 4, the chi-square analysis revealed a statistically significant association between socioeconomic status and adolescent marriage ($p = 0.000$). Among those who married before the age of 20, most came from lower socioeconomic backgrounds. These findings suggest that economic hardship may motivate families to support early marriage as a means of reducing financial burdens.

Tabel 4. Association Between Socioeconomic Status and Adolescent Marriage

Socioeconomic Status	Teenage marriage				Total		p-value
	Age 15-19 years		Age \geq 20 years		N	%	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	
Low	18	20,7	15	17,2	33	37,9	0,000
High	5	5,7	49	56,3	54	62,1	
Total	23	26,4	64	73,6	87	100	

Source: chi square test results

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Association between Cultural Orientation and Adolescent Marriage

Table 5 shows a strong relationship between cultural support and adolescent marriage, also confirmed statistically ($p = 0.000$). The majority of respondents who experienced adolescent marriage came from communities with cultural norms that support such practices, including early arranged marriage and concerns about remaining unmarried past a certain age.

These results emphasize the influence of both socioeconomic and cultural contexts in determining marriage patterns among young women in the Campalagian area.

Tabel 5. Association between Cultural Orientation and Adolescent Marriage

Budaya	Teenage marriage				Total		Nilai p
	Age 15-19 years		Age \geq 20 years		N	%	
	N	%	N	%			
Mendukung	18	20,7	12	13,8	30	34,5	0,000
Tidak Mendukung	5	5,7	52	59,8	57	65,5	
Total	23	26,4	64	73,6	87	100	

Source: chi square test results

DISCUSSION

The findings of this study demonstrate significant associations between both socioeconomic status and cultural orientation with adolescent marriage among women aged 15–25 years in the Campalagian Health Center area.

Socioeconomic Status and Adolescent Marriage

The analysis in Table 4 shows that adolescent marriage is more prevalent among individuals with low socioeconomic status. This is consistent with previous studies indicating that economic hardship is a major determinant of early marriage (MICHA, 2017). Families with limited financial resources may view marriage as a way to reduce household burdens, especially in contexts where young women are expected to contribute economically through their spouses. Some respondents indicated they were married due to early pregnancies or pressure to accept proposals to improve their family's economic situation. These findings align with the report by (Wulandari & Laksono, 2020) which found that girls in the lowest wealth quintile were 2.23 times more likely to marry before

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age 18 compared to those in the highest quintile.

Early marriage among socioeconomically disadvantaged groups has profound implications for maternal and child health. Young brides are at greater risk for complications such as anemia, obstructed labor, and preterm birth due to the underdeveloped reproductive system, as emphasized by (Delprato et al., 2017; Vir, 2016). Thus, economic interventions, including financial aid or scholarships, may help reduce the incidence of adolescent marriage by enabling girls to stay in school longer.

Cultural Orientation and Adolescent Marriage

The cultural dimension also plays a critical role. As illustrated in Table 5, adolescent marriage is strongly associated with communities where traditions support early union, such as arranged marriage or the stigmatization of remaining unmarried. These findings are supported by the study of (Godswill, 2012), which found that local cultural norms significantly influence marriage decisions regardless of the legal age minimum.

Parents in such communities often arrange marriages to preserve lineage, avoid social shame, or establish economic alliances. In rural areas, cultural norms often override legal frameworks, leading to the perpetuation of early marriage despite legal reforms. (Hossain et al., 2022) and (Satrianegara et al., 2021) describe how cultural expectations—such as early matchmaking and pressure to marry soon after a proposal—remain deeply entrenched in certain Indonesian communities.

Implications

The findings underscore the importance of multi-faceted interventions. While legal frameworks such as Law No. 16/2019 have raised the minimum marriage age, enforcement remains weak in the face of strong cultural norms and economic pressures. Therefore, community-based education programs and culturally sensitive advocacy are essential to shift public perception and reduce the prevalence of early marriage (John et al., 2019; Mehra et al., 2018). These efforts must be integrated with economic empowerment strategies to address the root causes of adolescent marriage.

CONCLUSION

This study concludes that both socioeconomic status and cultural factors are significantly associated with the incidence of adolescent marriage in the Campalagian Health Center area. Respondents with lower economic backgrounds and those influenced by cultural traditions that support early marriage were more likely to marry before the age of 20.

These findings highlight the need for integrated strategies that combine legal

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enforcement, socioeconomic support, and culturally sensitive education to reduce early marriage. Government and community stakeholders are encouraged to implement targeted interventions, such as school retention programs, youth empowerment, and family counseling, to prevent adolescent marriage and its adverse health and social consequences.

A challenge during the research was that some respondents were difficult to reach, requiring replacements. The sample consisted of married women aged 15-30 who agreed to participate.

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