



## The role of sex education in tackling early marriage

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### ABSTRACT

The practice of early marriage is a serious problem currently occurring. Even though marriage is everyone's right, in its implementation, you must still pay attention to applicable regulations. Education is essential in preventing early marriage, but in some cases, sex education is not widely conveyed in schools because it is considered taboo. This research was conducted to see an overview of early marriage, especially in the Pagerageung, Tasikmalaya, and how education, especially sex education, can play a role in preventing this. The method used is a qualitative research methodology with a case study approach with data collection techniques using four stages, including (1) in-depth interviews, (2) participant and non-participant observation, (3) documentation, and (4) literature review. The subjects in this research were 23 people, including government elements, community leaders, and subjects who married at an early age. Factors influencing early marriage include promiscuity, economics, culture, education, and religion. In this phenomenon, education has a role in providing adequate understanding and information to the community, especially in the Pagerageung area, so that the phenomenon of early marriage can continue to be reduced.

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### ABSTRAK

Praktik pernikahan usia dini menjadi masalah serius yang terjadi saat ini. Meskipun pernikahan merupakan hak setiap orang, namun dalam pelaksanaannya tetap harus memperhatikan sesuai dengan regulasi yang berlaku. Pendidikan memiliki peran yang penting pada pencegahan pernikahan dini, namun pada beberapa fenomena, pendidikan seks tidak banyak disampaikan di sekolah karena dianggap tabu. Penelitian ini dilakukan untuk melihat gambaran mengenai fenomena pernikahan dini khususnya di daerah Pagerageung, Tasikmalaya dan bagaimana pendidikan khususnya pendidikan seks dapat berperan untuk mencegah hal tersebut. Adapun metode yang digunakan adalah metodologi penelitian kualitatif dengan pendekatan studi kasus dengan teknik pengumpulan data menggunakan 4 tahapan, meliputi (1) Wawancara in depth interview, (2) Observasi Partisipan dan Nonpartisipan, (3) Dokumentasi, dan (4) Kajian Literatur. Subjek dalam penelitian ini berjumlah 23 orang, meliputi elemen pemerintahan, tokoh masyarakat, dan subjek yang menikah usia dini. Faktor yang mempengaruhi pernikahan usia dini, yaitu pergaulan bebas, ekonomi, budaya, pendidikan, dan agama. Pada fenomena ini, pendidikan memiliki peran untuk memberikan pemahaman dan informasi yang memadai kepada Masyarakat, khususnya di daerah Pagerageung agar fenomena pernikahan dini dapat terus dikurangi.

**Kata Kunci:** Pendidikan seks; pernikahan; pernikahan usia dini; peran pendidikan; pola pendidikan seks

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## INTRODUCTION

The practice of early marriage is a serious problem today, especially in Pagerageung Sub-district. Moreover, along with the rise of these cases, overcoming it must be a particular concern. Many reasons underlie early marriage, including the assumption that couples can continue to be healthy and active when their children grow up, need costs for education, avoid being trapped in promiscuity, or other matters (Prameswari et al., 2023). Although marriage is everyone's right, it must still pay attention to applicable regulations in its implementation. Besides marriage, humans can fulfill their biological needs, but marriage is not just about fulfilling them. More than that, marriage is a very long road that must be traveled by two humans together.

The restriction of early marriage is not without reason, but several things underlie it. One of them is the negative impact that can be seen in terms of psychological immaturity health, social, and economic aspects. From a psychological perspective, it can cause stress, become a burden, and regret. In terms of health, it (can cause health problems, such as miscarriages, premature babies, high maternal and infant mortality rates, and complications during pregnancy or childbirth. From a social perspective, it results in a lack of space to mingle and a sense of shame to socialize. Finally, from an economic perspective, many couples still cannot be independent or dependent on their parents (Sari & Puspitasari, 2022). This is in line with what was conveyed by Titi Eko Rahayu, Ministerial Expert Staff for Poverty Reduction at the Ministry of PPPA, in a Press Release number B-031/SETMEN/HM.02.04/01/2023 which explains that many impacts of early marriage, which will threaten the fulfillment of children's fundamental rights as well as the physical and psychological impact on children, will also worsen poverty rates, stunting, dropping out of school and even the threat of cervical cancer in children (see: <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/4357/kemen-pppa-perkawinan-anak-di-indonesia-sudah-mengkhawatirkan#>).

Given the severe negative impact of early marriage, child marriage in Indonesia has decreased by 3.5% over the past decade. However, the rate of decline is still relatively slow, so efforts are needed to reach the target of 8.74% by 2024 and 6.94% by 2023. A survey conducted by UNICEF and BPS in the "PUSKAPA - Child Marriage Report" explains that Indonesia is among the ten countries with the highest absolute number of child marriages worldwide. In 2018 in Indonesia there were at least 1 in 9 girls aged 20 to 24 years married before the age of 18 and it is predicted that up to 1.220.900 (see: <https://www.unicef.org/indonesia/sites/unicef.org/indonesia/files/2020-06/Prevention-of-Child-Marriage-Report-2020.pdf>). Based on CNN data, several provinces in Indonesia that have high rates of early marriage are East Java, Central Java, and West Java Provinces with its large population (see: <https://www.bkkbn.go.id/berita-bkkbn-ingatkan-bahaya-pernikahan-dini-mulai-dari-osteoporosis-hingga-kecacatan>). Meanwhile, according to Tribun News entitled "Pengajuan Pernikahan Dini Tinggi di Kabupaten Tasikmalaya" explains that in Tasikmalaya Regency in West Java, the number of ratios increased in 2018 there were 31 cases of filing for dispensation of early marriage, 2019 increased to 286 cases, 2020 continued to rise to 946 cases, 2021 the most with 1028 cases, and in 2022 it fell again at 778 cases (see: <https://priangan.tribunnews.com/2023/01/20/pengajuan-pernikahan-dini-cukup-tinggi-di-kabupaten-tasikmalaya>). In Tasikmalaya, many applications for dispensation of underage marriage come from Pagerageung Sub-district.

Education in its various forms and wrappings must be present to deal with this phenomenon of early marriage. Sex education emphasizes acquiring knowledge that can shape beliefs, values, concepts, intimacy, relationships, and identity (Ademuyiwa et al., 2023). Not just at school, sex education also needs parental support to strengthen school-parent partnerships in this area and to encourage parents to talk to their children at home in tandem with what is being taught in school (Rudoe & Ponsford, 2023). Schools, especially teachers, are critical in teaching students about sex education (Zhuravleva & Helmer, 2023).

The description encourages researchers to examine, analyze, describe, formulate, and interpret the phenomenon of early marriage and the things that influence its occurrence, as well as the role of education and the state of sex education in anticipating the phenomenon of early marriage.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

### Early Marriage

Early marriage is defined as marriage in adolescents under 20 who are not ready for marriage (Syalis & Nurwati, 2020). Citing information provided by the National Population and Family Planning Agency (BKKBN) on its Twitter channel, the ideal age for marriage is 21 years for women and 25 years for men. Meanwhile, according to (Raksun et al., 2023), early marriage is between male and female adolescents under the average age limit. It can be threaded that early marriage is a marriage entered into by a couple; one or both individuals have not met the age of marriage from the regulations or rules that have been determined.

### Sex Education

Sex education in Indonesian comes from 2 words, namely education and sex, which are grouped into one, namely sex education or sex education in English. Sex education is an effort that aims to guide and encourage boys and girls from childhood to adulthood related to interactions between the sexes in general and sex life in particular (Arimurti & Nurmala, 2017). Usually, sex education refers to introducing the anatomy of the body or reproductive organs and the consequences of not complying with religious rules, laws, customs, and mental and material readiness (Ratnasari & Alias, 2016). Sex education emphasizes acquiring knowledge that can shape beliefs, values, intimacy, relationships, and identity (Ademuyiwa et al., 2023). In another sense, it can be said that sex education is education about concepts, values, and relationships related to the health of one's reproductive organs, which aims at how a person can recognize and understand himself.

### Factors Affecting Early Marriage

Riany et al. (2020) concluded from their research that the factors influencing early marriage include knowledge, attitudes, parental income, parental role, and number of family members, while exposure to information media, peer influence, and culture do not influence early marriage. In contrast to the opinion of Arikhman et al. (2019), cultural factors also support early marriage apart from low levels of knowledge. Handayani et al. (2021) state that the capital owned by teenagers or their families influences the decision to marry at an early age. In contrast, Ardayani (2020) shows that no relationship exists between knowledge, education level, parental attitudes, parents' employment status, parents' income, beliefs or culture, and the role of peers. Another opinion from Yanti et al. (2018) states that the factors influencing early marriage are pregnancy out of wedlock, environmental, parental, educational, economic, individual, and social media factors. Tampubolon (2021) also said that, in general, factors that influence early marriage include individual characteristics such as free sex in teenagers, family factors such as economic needs and two arranged marriages, as well as environmental factors where the individual lives, for example, marriage culture young.

## **Sex Education Concerning Early Marriage**

Efforts to introduce sex education to early childhood and teenagers is an effort that parents must immediately undertake. Introduction to children's reproductive organs is considered urgent so that children can look after and care for themselves from an early age. In this way, they can recognize their identity biologically so that they become psychologically mature in their development. On average, what encourages early marriage is parents who let their children find out about sex and sexuality for themselves so that the impact is that early marriage occurs at a young age (Adam, 2019). To become a person who is healthy in their sexual relationships, sexual education must be provided. In addition to needing academic recognition, the individual, as mentioned above, must receive in-depth instruction and training to ensure that whatever information they receive is accurate, factual, legal, and free from discrimination, gender bias, and sexism (Febriagivary, 2021). Numerous factors, including varying levels of awareness of sex and reproductive health, environmental conditions, supervision, and mass media, may contribute to the difficulty of interfaith marriage in the female community (Oktavia et al., 2018; Musfiroh, 2016).

## **Impact of Early Marriage**

The impact of early marriage, according to Yanti et al. (2018), is that psychological maturity has not been achieved; from a social perspective, marriage reduces the freedom to develop oneself, minimizes the opportunity to continue education to a higher level from a health perspective, early marriage increases the risk pregnancy, high divorce rates, and a low standard of living as a result of teenagers' inability to meet economic needs. Fadilah (2021) explained his findings that early marriage significantly impacts the husband and wife, the children who will be born, the family, economic conditions, social conditions, obstacles to education, and so on. The impacts also vary, starting from the health of mothers who conceive at a young age, the condition of children born to young mothers, the psychology of the couple, and the impact of divorce at a young age. Indrianingsih et al. (2020) mention several impacts of early marriage on the family economy. The result in terms of health of young couples who marry early will be at risk of experiencing reproductive health problems and higher risks to the health of the mother and baby. The impact in the educational sector, namely dropping out of school after getting married. The impact on the psychological field is that there are often domestic arguments due to the couple's mental unpreparedness to become a householder. Finally, the impact on the legal field is that underage married couples do not have a marriage certificate or family card.

Early marriage's positive impact is avoiding adultery and reducing the burden on parents (Yanti et al., 2018). Early marriage has a positive effect because young people often prioritize the role of housewife because they only have a sense of love and affection for their family without being burdened with burdensome burdens. Unlike adult women who worry about many things about their married life, early marriage can also reduce the possibility of getting pregnant out of wedlock (Rahmawati, 2020; Shufiyah, 2018).

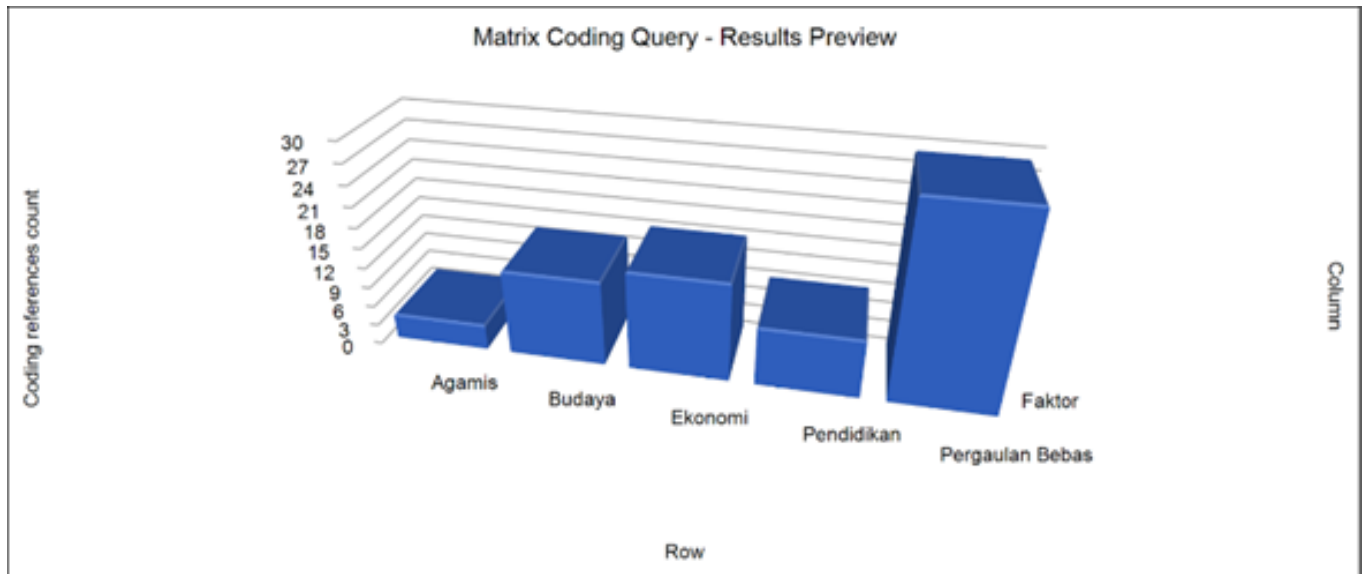
## **METHODS**

This research uses a qualitative research methodology with a case study approach. This case study approach is a method that can describe problems with complex processes and their effects in a particular context (Yusanto, 2020). There are three stages in compiling this case study: collecting data, compiling data, and making a final report in the form of a narrative. The data collection technique uses four stages, including (1) In-depth interviews, (2) Participant and non-participant observations, (3) Documentation, and (4) Studies. Literature. The subjects in this study were married minors, their parents, local community leaders, *lebe nikah (penghulu)*, and the religious affairs office (KUA) in the area. Twenty-two subjects were selected as people who were considered to have information related to the theme taken. The object of this

research is the increase in early marriage cases every year, including those that occur in Pagerageung Sub-district, Tasikmalaya.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Factors Affecting Early Marriage



**Figure 1.** Factors affecting early marriage  
Source: Research 2023

Based on **Figure 1**, the results of interviews with research informants show several factors that influence early marriage in Pagerageung Sub-district, including promiscuity factors, religious factors, cultural factors, economic factors, and educational factors, commensurate with the results of research conducted by [Rumble et al., \(2018\)](#) educational status, economy, religious bigotry, and other important factors contribute to early marriage. This is also reinforced by [Saleheen et al. \(2021,\)](#) who state that low educational attainment and poverty are the main factors that cause high rates of early marriage in low and middle-income countries. However, one of the factors that significantly influences early marriage in Pagerageung Sub-district is promiscuity. The same thing applies to research by [Siregar and Sumanti \(2023\)](#), which shows that the main causal factors of early marriage in Perlabian Village are caused by promiscuity and individual will. This is following what the Pagerageung Sub-district Head said,

*“Hal yang mempengaruhi pernikahan usia dini di Kecamatan Pagerageung, yaitu kekhawatiran orang tua, faktor ekonomi, pergaulan bebas, dan kurangnya pengetahuan di masyarakat.”*

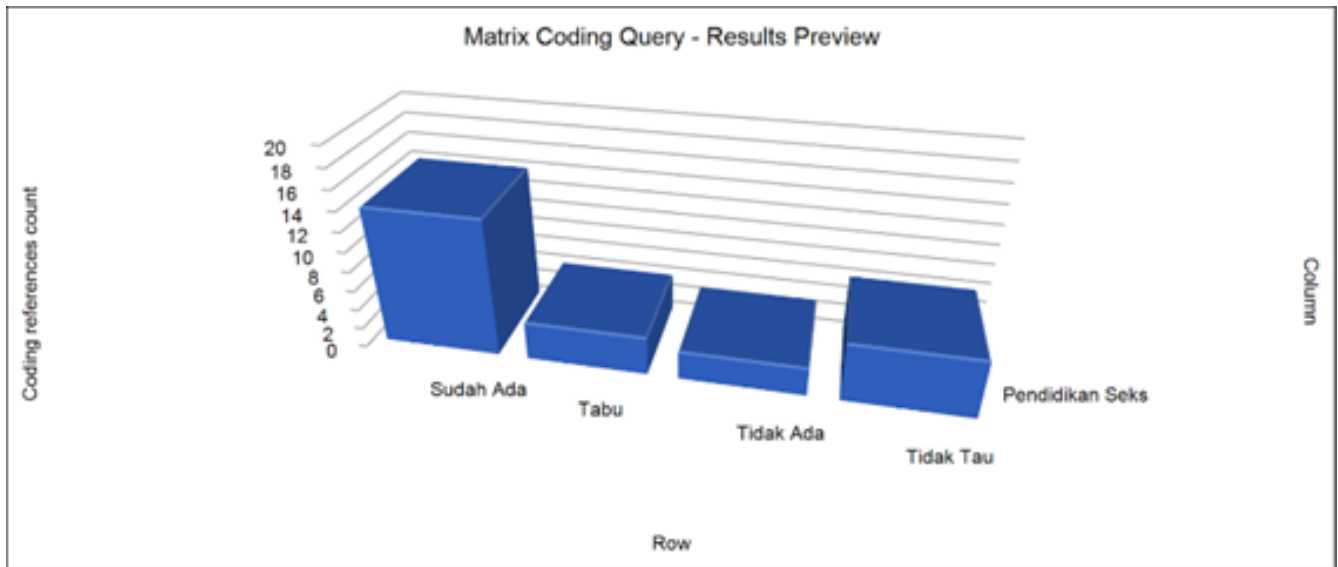
This opinion was reinforced by the Head of the KUA of Pagerageung Sub-district, who explained that promiscuity causes parents to be pressured to marry off their children.

*“Faktor lainnya sudah hamil sehingga orang tua terdesak untuk menikahkannya, selain itu karena syarat kelengkapan untuk menikah sudah siap. Hal ini menjadi kaitannya dengan pergaulan bebas remaja.”*

Promiscuity is the main factor leading to early marriage in Pagerageung Sub-district. A teenager will go out of bounds through promiscuity, which concerns parents. With that, rather than unwanted things happening, most parents choose to marry off their children even though they are still at an early age. For example, promiscuity in the form of dating can lead teenagers to have relationships like husband and wife, resulting in pregnancy outside of marriage. As a result, they are forced to marry ([Siregar & Sumanti, 2023](#); [Fatmawati & Yunanto, 2016](#)).



## Sex education about early marriage



**Figure 2.** Sex education about early marriage  
Source: Research 2023

Based on **Figure 2**, the results of interviews with informants show that sex education in the Pagerageung Sub-district can exist already. However, some say that sex education is essential and does not exist or know about sex education. First-time sex education usually starts from the primary environment, namely the family, but that is not enough. Parents' understanding of the purpose of sex education in preschool children is 76.4%, but they do not understand the purpose of sex education (Nadar, 2018). Other research indicated that parent-child communication about sexual and reproductive health could improve safe sex practices among adolescents, but barriers to such (Mullis et al., 2021). This was confirmed by the Head of the Pagerageung Sub-district KUA, who said,

*“Saya sendiri, masih belum paham tentang bagaimana pendidikan seks sendiri. Bisa dikatakan mungkin peran dari orang tua sangat penting untuk memberikan pendidikan seks ke anaknya karena orang tua adalah pendidik pertama dan utama.”*

The implementation of sex education in the Pagerageung Sub-district already exists. Still, they do not fully understand sex education, and collaboration with several parties, including parents, is needed. The Head of Guranteng Village conveyed this.

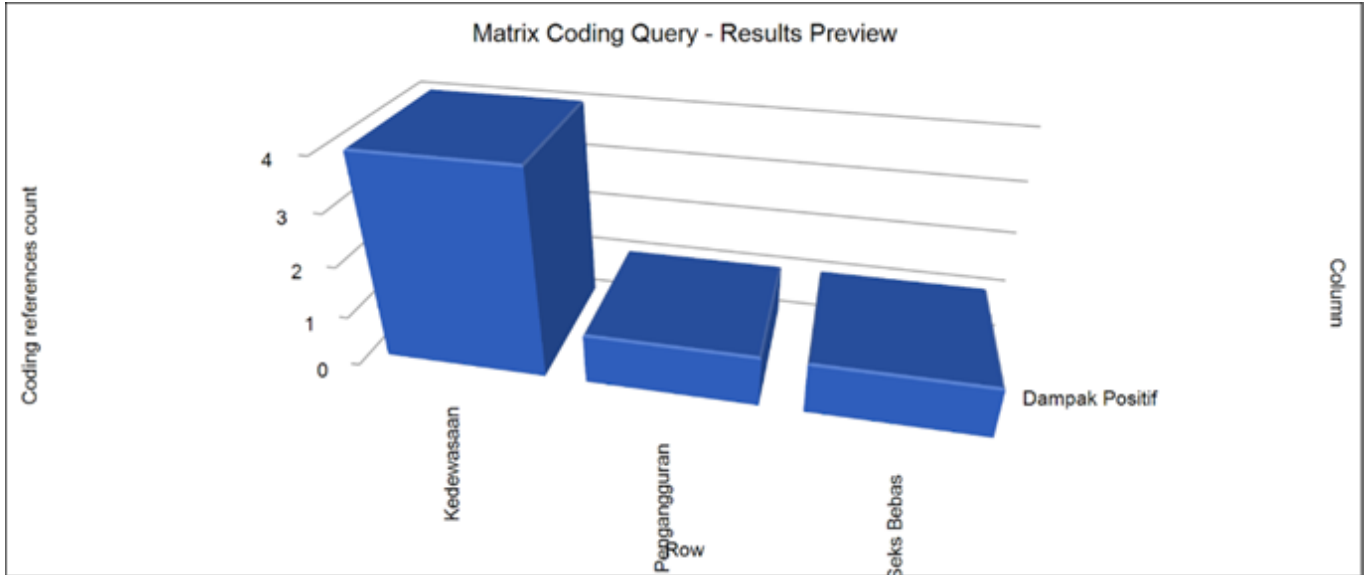
*“Sebenarnya saya sendiri belum sepenuhnya mengerti tentang konsep pendidikan seks, namun pokoknya pendekatan ini memerlukan kerja sama dari berbagai pihak terutama peran utama sebagai orang tua dan keluarga dalam peran pendidikan pertama anak.”*

The Head of Pagersari Village expressed another opinion.

*“Saya sendiri belum sepenuhnya memahami pendidikan seks itu, namun intinya harus ada kolaborasi dari berbagai peran terutama orang tua sebagai pendidik pertama dan membatasi pergaulan lawan jenis yang mengarah ke pergaulan bebas, seperti seks bebas kan memang tidak diperbolehkan oleh agama juga.”*

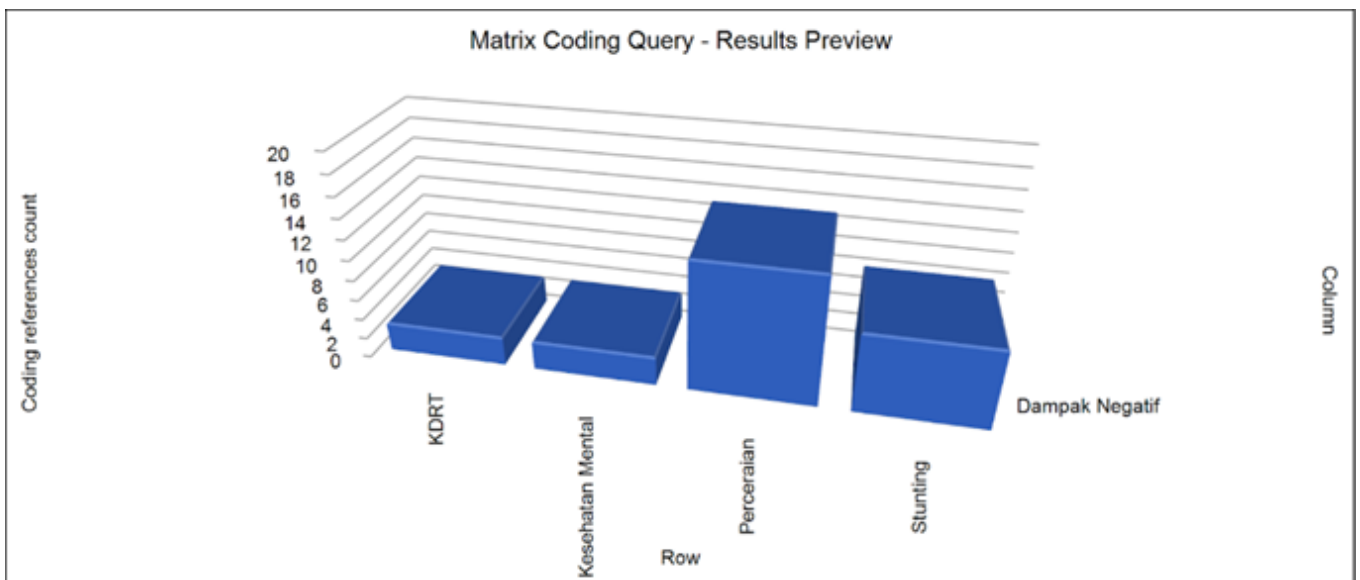
So, people often hear and know the term sex education, but unfortunately, many still do not know further understanding or only know a glimpse of it. Thus, cooperation from various parties, such as family, community, and government, is needed for implementation.

### Imp, the act of Early Marriage



**Figure 3.** Positive Impact of Early Marriage  
Source: Research 2023

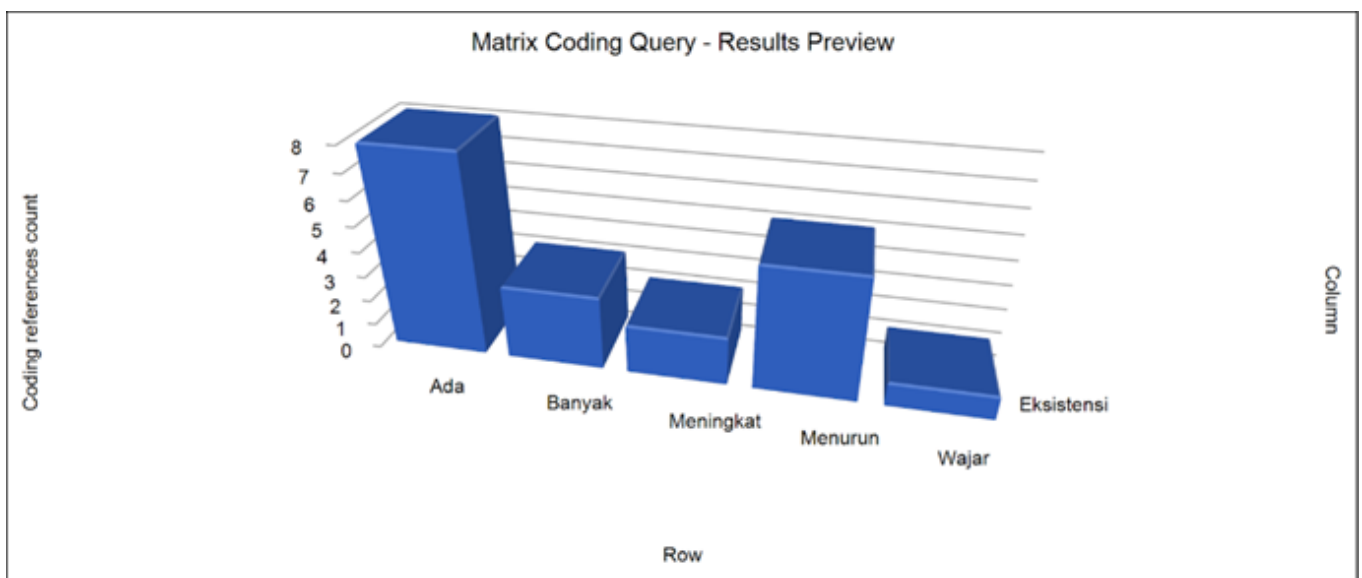
In addition to the negative impacts of early marriage, there are positive impacts, especially in Pagerageung Sub-district. Based on **Figure 3**, the positive impacts most commonly found in communities that enter into early marriage are maturity, reduced employment, and reduced sex. In addition to the negative impacts of early marriage, there are positive impacts, especially in Pagerageung Sub-district. The positive impacts most commonly found in the community are maturity, reducing free sex, and reducing unemployment. This impact can be observed in several aspects: psychologically, freedom is reduced, anxiety arises, and on the positive side, early marriage can also increase women's thinking maturity (Fitriani et al., 2022; Maudina, 2019). With this, it can be interpreted that early marriage can only be seen from the negative side, but there are also positive sides. However, despite its positive impact, early marriage must still be overcome and prevented following the age requirements for marriage. This is so that the number of cases of early marriage in Tasikmalaya, especially in Pagerageung Sub-district, will decrease.



**Figure 4.** Negative Impact of Early Marriage  
Source: Research 2023

Based on **Figure 4**, the results of interviews with informants in Pagerageung Sub-district related to the most talked-about negative impact of early marriage being divorce, followed by stunting rates, mental health, and case violence (KDRT). This is commensurate with the opinion of [Fadilah \(2021\)](#), which states that the impact is different, starting from the health of mothers who become pregnant at a young age, the condition of children born to young mothers, the psychology of the couple, and even worse the impact of divorce at a young age. This is reinforced by the opinion of [Rumble et al. \(2018\)](#) that early marriage puts girls at higher risk of death during childbirth. Complications during childbirth and pregnancy are among the leading causes of death among adults; children born to young mothers are also more likely to experience malnutrition and other health outcomes. Thus, before entering into an early marriage, you must consider several considerations to avoid unwanted negative impacts, especially for couples whose marriage age is not following the provisions or is too early.

### Existence of Early Marriage in Pagerageung Sub-district



**Figure 5.** Existence of early marriage in Pagerageung Sub-district  
Resource: Research 2023

Based on **Figure 5**, the existence of early marriage in Pagerageung Sub-district, the results of interviews in August 2023. It was found that most respondents' answers were followed by the answer that the existence of early marriage in the Pagerageung Sub-district was decreasing in third place, with three respondents answering a lot. In line with what was conveyed by *Tribun News* titled "*Pengajuan Pernikahan Dini Tinggi di Kabupaten Tasikmalaya*," one of the areas where the of early marriages has increased is Tasikmalaya. In 2018, there were 31 cases of filing for dispensation of early marriage, 2019 increased to 286 cases, 2020 increased to 946 cases, 2021 had the most cases with 1028 cases, and in 2022 it fell again to 778 cases. In Tasikmalaya, many applications for underage marriage dispensation come from Pagerageung Sub-district. From this data, if juxtaposed with the data that researchers get, it can be interpreted that the data is valid. According to the secondary data in Tasikmalaya, early marriage in 2021 experienced a high spike. In 2022, it decreased, and from the primary data researchers obtained in the field in 2023, respondents explained that early marriage in Pagerageung Sub-district exists and decreased compared to previous years.



This is reinforced by what was explained by the Pagerageung Sub-district Family Planning Coordinator, who explained in an interview,

*“Eksistensi pernikahan usia dini di Pagerageung bisa dikatakan setiap tahunnya menurun. Namun memang di Pagerageung banyak kasus yang menikah usia dini di bawah 19 tahun.”*

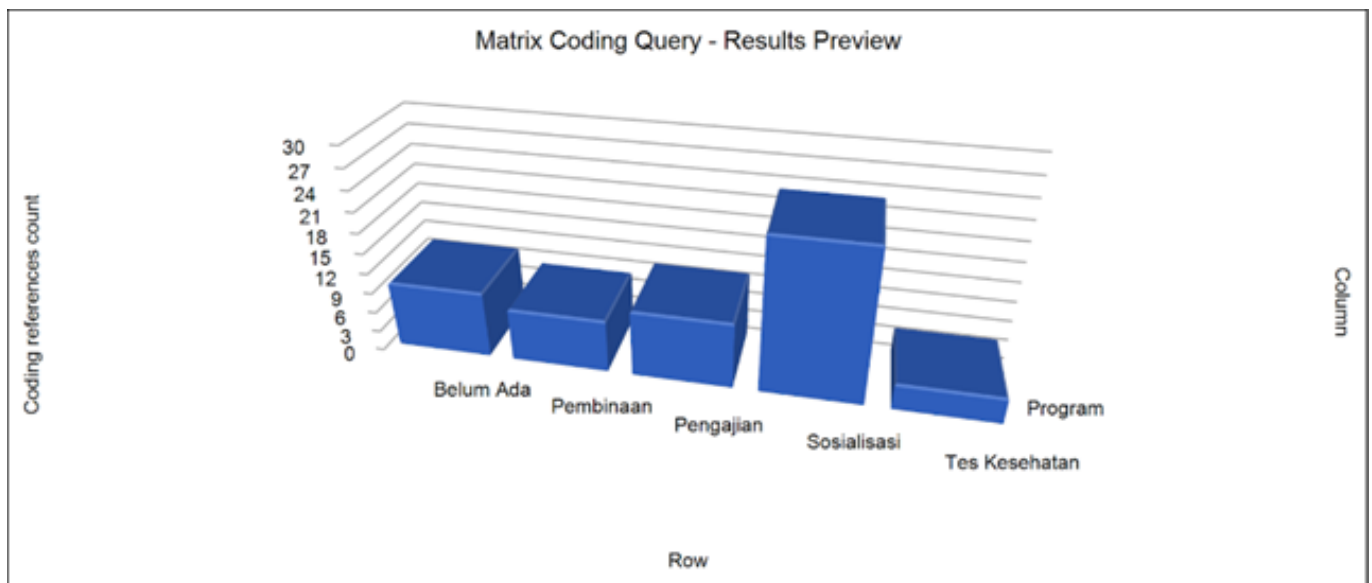
In line with what was conveyed by the head of the Pagerageung Sub-district office,

*“Setahu saya, memang untuk kasus nya masih ada saja yang ditemui di Pagerageung kalau di lapangan. Saya pastikan setiap tahunnya menurun karena pagerageung sendiri cukup agamis. Setau saya pada saat zaman covid, sekitar tahun 2020 memang meningkat kasusnya.”*

The same thing was also conveyed by one of the village heads in the Pagerageung Sub-district, who explained that,

*“Karena keluasan ruang aturan pemerintah terkait pernikahan usia dini ini, tidak menutup kemungkinan jika di Desa Guranteng ada fenomena pernikahan usia dini ini.”*

### Programs That Aim to Reduce Early Marriage Rates



**Figure 6.** Programs that aim to reduce early marriage  
*Source: Research 2023*

It is based on **Figure 6**, namely interview data from informants. It shows that there is a program to address the phenomenon of early marriage in the Pagerageung Sub-district that various parties pursue. Data from informants stated that there was much socialization, where the government and health institutions carried out this socialization. And then, from the data obtained, many said that the socialization was usually carried out in the community recitation, where many people gather. However, many data variables that appear after the statement of socialization are also statements that there is no—program in the Pagerageung Sub-district to address early marriage. From the results of the researcher’s observations, the program to address early marriage that exists in Pagerageung Sub-district is socialization inserted in routine community activities by the government, and socialization and guidance carried out also by health workers inserted in their programs, but not explicitly making programs that directly refer to addressing the phenomenon of early marriage. However, these socializations are not evenly distributed throughout all villages in Pagerageung Sub-district. This is reinforced because many statements from informant data

mention that there was presented by the head of the KUA of Pagerageung Sub-district in an interview who explained *that*.

*“Program yang sudah terlaksana dalam upaya menurunkan tingkat pernikahan usia dini paling hanya penyuluhan yang kami kaitkan dalam pengajian contohnya mengenai kematangan berumah tangga.”*

As for the results of interviews with couples who married at an early age in Pagerageung Sub-district regarding the program, it was explained that,

*“Kalau seingat saya, program yang langsung saya ikuti yang benar benar program yang judulnya langsung mengarah ke pernikahan usia dini itu gak ada. Paling sering dengar himbauan saja kalau lagi ada posyandu/atau pengajian.”*

The lack of attention regarding early marriage impacts behaviors responding to this phenomenon. Therefore, there are not many programs in the Pagerageung Sub-district to address early marriage. Sensitizing and informing the community is an excellent first step for addressing a problem that exists in society, according to (Ariawan et al., 2021). The socialization of adolescents, communities, and parents will also provide insight into the dangers of early marriage regarding health, mental, educational, and social. Hence, it must be done by the government and supported by official institutions.

### The Role of Education in Early Marriage

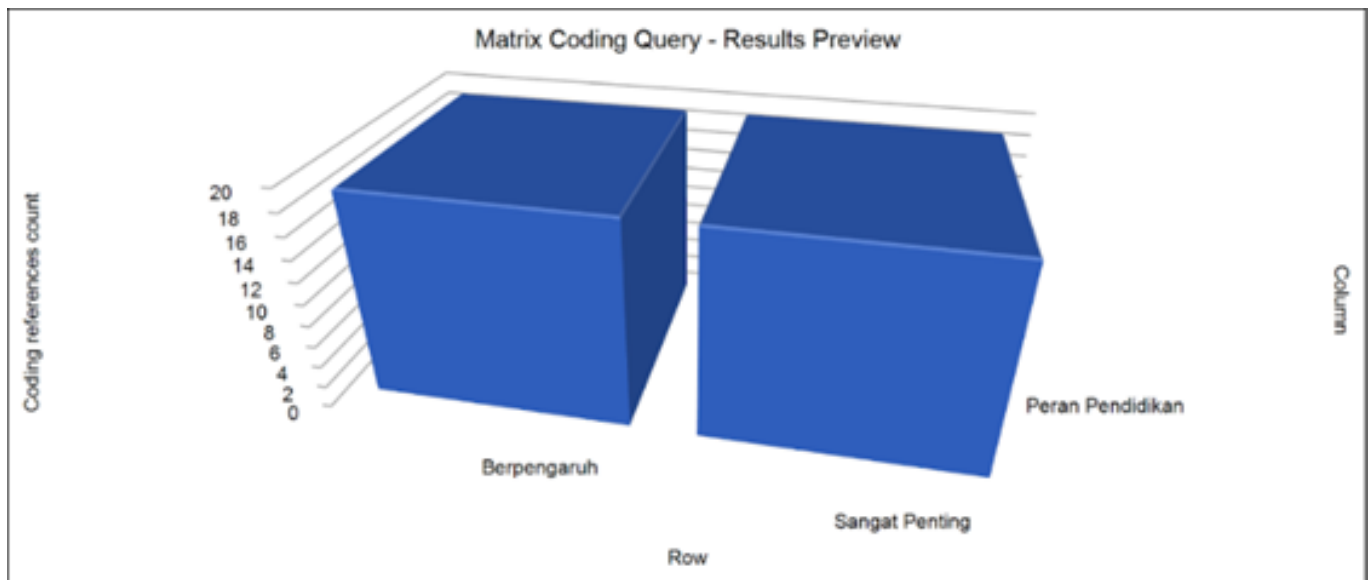


Figure 7. The role of education in early marriage  
Source: Research 2023

Raya et al. (2022) explained that with education, individuals can respond to problems, make decisions on even complex matters, and increase individual social maturity. Low education levels can cause individuals to marry at an early age. The interview data provides an overview of the views of the Pagerageung Sub-district community on the role of education in the context of early marriage. From the data obtained, the informant stated that education significantly influences early marriage. Furthermore, informants emphasized that education is influential and essential in addressing early marriage. This finding highlights the community's awareness of the relevance of education as a critical factor in overcoming the problem of early marriage. This reflects their view that improving human resources through education can effectively

reduce early marriage. This is in line with what was conveyed by the head of the KUA of Pagerageung Sub-district, who explained that,

*“Peran pendidikan dalam mengantisipasi tingkat pernikahan usia dini tentunya sangatlah penting karena melalui pendidikanlah kita mengetahui tentang perkembangan psikologis, mereka dapat memahami betapa pentingnya memiliki kemampuan untuk mengatasi konflik, dan tantangan dalam hubungan.”*

In line with what was conveyed by the Pagerageung Sub-district Family Planning Coordinator, who explained that,

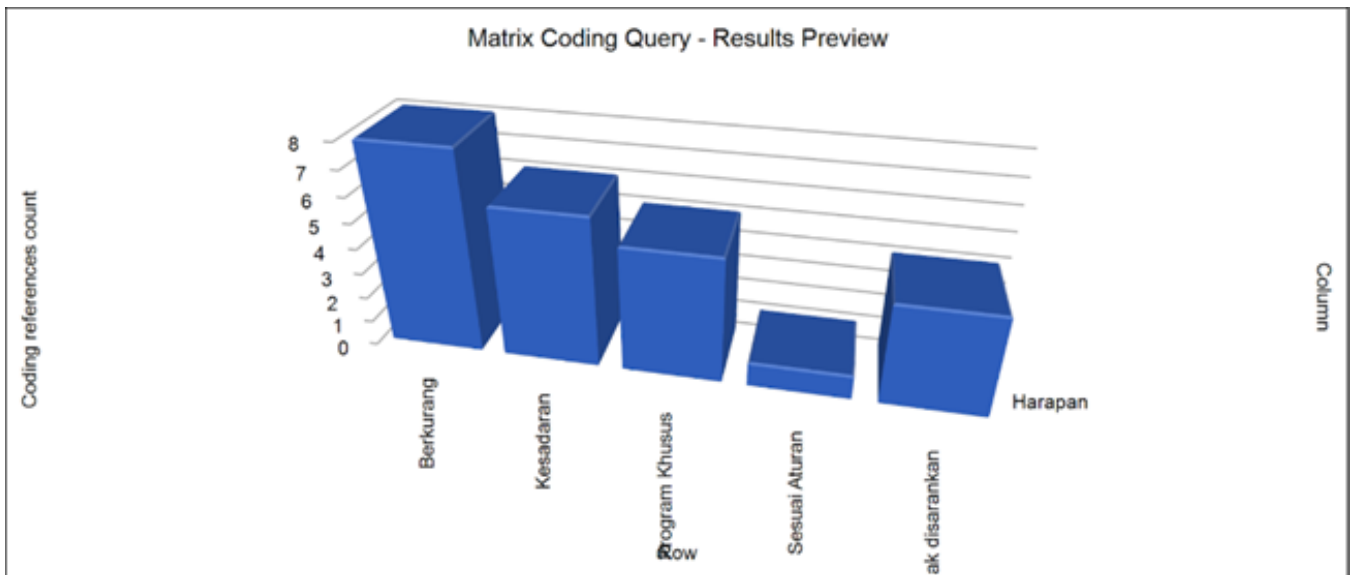
*“Peran pendidikan dalam mengantisipasi tingkat pernikahan usia dini sangatlah besar dan signifikan. Pendidikan memiliki potensi untuk membawa perubahan positif dalam masyarakat dengan mengubah pola pikir, meningkatkan kesadaran, dan memberikan pengetahuan yang diperlukan untuk mengatasi masalah seperti pernikahan usia dini.”*

Regarding the role of education in the context of early marriage, the couple who married at an early age (EL) also explained that,

*“Peran pendidikan penting sekali ya, lihat saja sekarang banyak orang yang berpendidikan tinggi pasti akan fokus buat ngejar karir dulu. Apabila dibandingkan dulu berbeda jauh banyak yang tidak menempuh pendidikan sehingga mau tidak mau jalan keluarnya melakukan pernikahan walaupun umurnya masih dini.”*

By understanding the importance of education and providing greater access to quality education, we can move towards a more inclusive society with more significant opportunities.

### Community Expectations in Pagerageung Sub-district in the Context of Early Marriage



**Figure 8.** Community expectations in Pagerageung Sub-district in the context of early marriage  
Source: Research 2023

To understand the dynamics of early marriage in the Pagerageung Sub-district, researchers conducted interviews with various respondents to explore their expectations. The results of analyzing the interview data revealed four key variables that influence the views and expectations of the respondents, as shown in **Figure 8**. First, the findings show that most communities hope that early marriage will be reduced. This hope reflects a high level of awareness of the negative impact of early marriage on individuals and

communities. People seem to be increasingly aware of the need for action to address this issue. Second, a variable that emerged in the interview data analysis was the awareness level about early marriage. Respondents showed varying levels of awareness, reflecting the diversity of community knowledge and understanding of the issue. This suggests the need for a comprehensive approach to improving community understanding and knowledge of early marriage. Thirdly, the interview results also revealed the community's hope for a unique program to help address early marriage. This variable reflects a desire for concrete steps to address the issue, as well as recognition of the complexity of the problem. The fourth variable was the expectation that the community would comply with existing regulations related to early marriage that the government did not recommend. This reflects the community's adherence to existing rules and regulations as preventive measures in reducing age marriage.

This is in line with what was conveyed by one of the village heads of Pagerageung Sub-district in an interview, who explained that,

*“Ya saya harap di desa ini 0 pernikahan dini, artinya pernikahan dini secara ini jauh di bawah umur rata-rata, kematangan biologis, kematangan mental dan lain sebagainya. Insya allah mudah-mudahan dua tiga tahun lagi tidak ada kasus.”*

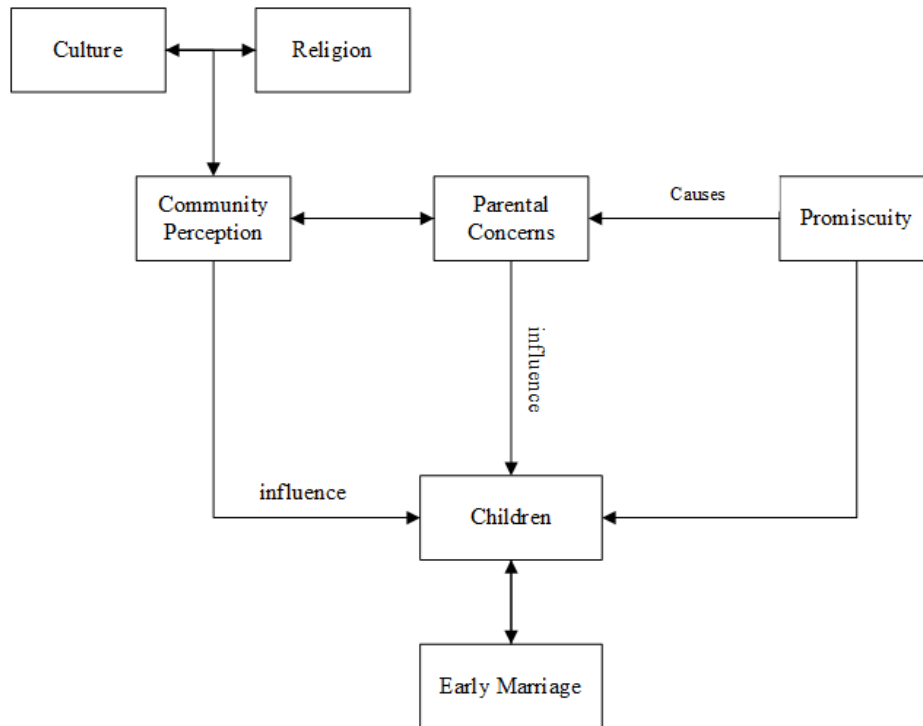
One of the penghulu in Pagerageung Sub-district also said that,

*“Harapan kedepannya adalah agar hal ini tidak terjadi lagi karena untuk mengurangi kasus-kasus yang akan terjadi seperti KDRT dan perceraian dan bahkan untuk anaknya bisa saja mengalami stunting.”*

## **Discussion**

### **Patterns of Early Childhood Marriage in Pagerageung Sub-district**

Based on the results of the analysis of various data sources that have been obtained, early marriage in Pagerageung Sub-district, if it is idolized, with an initial description of the factors that most influence early marriage based on the results of observations and interviews. Parental concerns, community perceptions, and individual themselves influence the perpetrators of early marriage. Parents' concerns are influenced by the existence of promiscuity among young people in the Pagerageung Sub-district area and perceptions from the community. The existence of interrelated cultures and religion community perceptions. The culture of the community is of the view that when girls reach adolescence, the community tends to be more supportive of marriage as an alternative to avoid promiscuity, driven again where the girl's partner tends to be financially established This culture is inextricably linked to the religious beliefs of the people in the area, where the majority of the religious beliefs in the area are Islamic, in Islamic teachings, when children have reached the age of puberty, individuals are allowed to marry. This supports the culture of the people in the area, reinforcing that the marriage route is better taken than teenagers falling into promiscuity. The relationship between the description of the pattern of early marriage in Pagerageung Sub-district, if conceptualized in a mind map, is shown in **Figure 9** below.

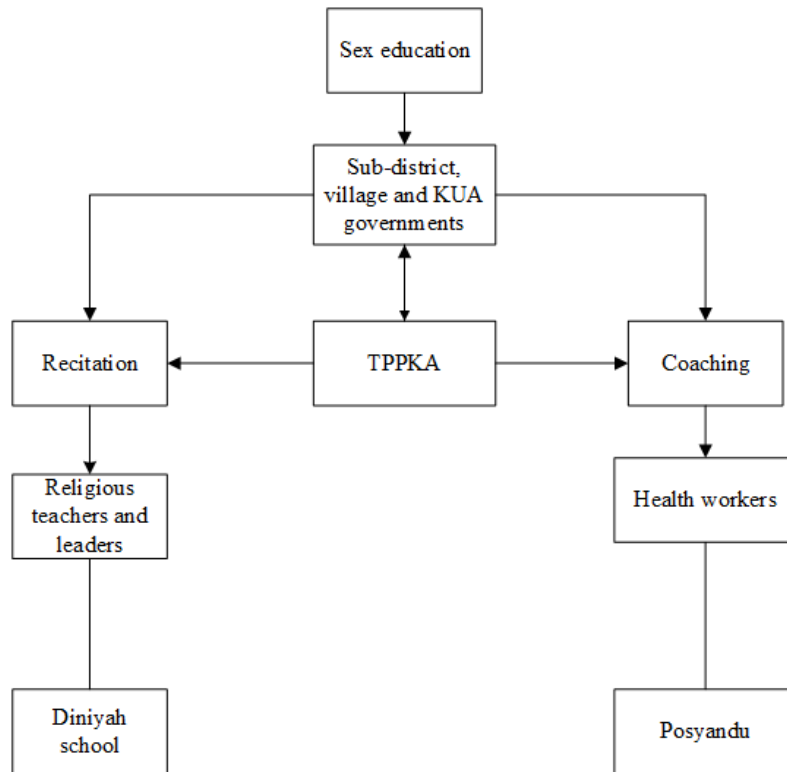


**Figure 9.** *Patterns of early childhood marriage in Pagerageung Sub-district*  
Source: Research 2023

### **Patterns of Sex Education in Pagerageung Sub-district**

Sex education in the Pagerageung Sub-district already exists. Sex education has been initiated by Sub-district government officials, villages, and the Religious Affairs Office (KUA) in socialization. The Sub-district formed a TPPKA team (Prevention and Control Team Violence Handling), and then the form of socialization is carried was through religious teachings and from the cog. The religious teachings, sex education is provided by teachers and religious leaders, while the implementation of health workers carry out the implementation of sex education from coaching activities. However, the socialization provided is not evenly distributed to the community. Sex education is said to be uneven because of the lack of awareness of the community to learn about it and the view of the community that sex education is still considered a vulgar thing. To increase the coverage of sex education in the community, further efforts need to be made in changing people's perception change education so that it is not considered vulgar and is more widely accepted. Such measures include increased information through social media and closer cooperation with formal and non-formal education institutions. The relationship between the description of sex education patterns in Pagerageung Sub-district, if conceptualized in a mind map, is shown in **Figure 10** below.





**Figure 10.** *Patterns of sex education in Pagerageung Sub-district*  
 Source: Research 2023

## CONCLUSION

The family is the first departure for each individual to develop and grow. Preparing an ideal and mature family from both sides, physically, mentally, and emotionally means that we prepare the next generation that is good in its development and growth. Regarding this early marriages positive and negative values for the people who experience it. Legally, the state is present and embraces it with special procedures that must be taken to marry off prospective brides who are not old enough according to the provisions, in the narrow sense of marrying at an early age. Today, although from previous years there has been a decrease, there are still many early marriage phenomena, especially in Pagerageung Sub-district, Tasikmalaya Regency. Many factors encourage the occurrence of early marriage in the area, including promiscuity, religious factors, cultural factors, economic factors, and educational factors. However, one factor that is very dominant in influencing the occurrence of early marriage in Pagerageung Sub-district is promiscuity. During the increasingly raging moral degradation of young people, education must be present in various varieties, including early marriage, one of which is sex-oriented education. However, in the Pagerageung Sub-district, sex education is taboo, but some visionary people still stepped up to convey this sex education. By wrapping and refining this sex education so that it can acculturate with the existing culture. Therefore, in order community to aspire and expect must be endeavored together, with the collaboration of various parties, whether they have a direct interest or not.

## AUTHOR'S NOTE

The author hopes this article can be helpful for readers and emphasizes that this writing is original and does not contain plagiarism.

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