Psychological Disorder of Women <18 Years Old with Early-Age Marriage

Indra Sulistiawati1*, Cesa Septiana Pratiwi 2

1,2 Universitas ‘Aisyiyah Yogyakarta

1indra.sulistiawati69@gmail.com, 2cesaseptianapratiwi@unisayogya.ac.id

*corresponding author

Submission date: 19 Februari 2021, Receipt date: 15 Maret 2021, Publication date: 1 April 2021

Abstract

More than 700 million women all around the world are married before 18 years old and there are about 250 million women before 15 years old. Child marriage is considered as factor leading to psychological trauma which affects mental and physical development. The objective of this review is for investigating how psychological disorder of women aged <18 years old with early-age marriage, by using Scoping Review and adopting framework (Arksey and O’Malley, 2015). Eight articles were discussed in this review and the result showed that the child marriage can lead to physiological disorder such as anxiety, stress, and depression to suicide attempts. The further research is necessary to be conducted for identifying the types and the impacts of psychological disorder on child marriage.

Keywords: psychological disorder, child marriage, marriage under <18 years old

INTRODUCTION

There are more than 700 million women in the worldwide are married before 18 years old. One of three women (around 250 million women) is married before 15 years old (UNICEF, 2014). The early-age marriage is able to lead to psychological disorders such as anxiety, mental unreadiness, uncontrolled-self in decision making and problem solving (Prawita et al., 2019). Based on regional research in South Asian showed that women who married under 14 years old or younger has high risk facing sexual harassment and emotional harassment compared with women who married in mature age (Hotchkiss et al., 2016).

The child marriage is considered as factor leading to psychological trauma which can affect mental and physical development, educational interference, and interfere children’s ability to develop and grow socially. The traumatic history of children is associated to mental disorder and considered as a risk factor for disease development to suicide attempt (Gunes et al., 2016; Gage, 2013). The result of research in Niger and Ethiopia found that the child marriage under 15 years old or early is related to psychological disorder such as depression, anxiety, and emotional pressure that caused by burden and responsibility (John et al., 2019).
Women who married early have a higher risk of partner violence, the bad mental health and limited decision-making due to power inequalities in their marriage. Child marriage is going to affect on the result of adverse economic outcomes, including lower educational achievement, lower socio-economic and higher poverty rates (De Groot et al., 2018). Physical and psychological violence on women who married at early age faces several threats. The teenagers often become a victim of household and don't have autonomy to defend themselves. In addition, women's psychological well-being and welfare are also disturbed. This is because the teenagers who marry at early age are not able to enjoy their childhood and adolescence (WHO, 2012).

One of programs carried out by UNFPA and UNICEF for abolishing the early-age marriage is promoting the women’s rights for postponing marriage and pregnancy. The Global Program supports the household in declaring positive attitude, empowering women for having their own future, and strengthening service to empower them. The other programs is advocating for laws and policies which protect the women’s rights by providing the evidences on the negative effects on the early-age marriage for supporting policy (UNICEF & UNFPA, 2020).

**RESEARCH METHODS**

The method of the scoping review utilized framework (Arksey & O’Malley, 2005), there are 5 review steps namely, (1) Identifying research questions, (2) Identifying relevant research, (3) Selecting research, (4) Data Mapping and (5) Arranging, summing up and reporting results (Arksey & O’Malley, 2005).

**Step 1 Identifying Scoping Review Questions**

The first step of scoping review is identifying research questions for discussing as strategy guidelines in searching literature (Arksey et al., 2007). The Population, Exposure, Outcome, and Study Design (PEOS) format was utilized in supporting review focus and searching strategy as well as in managing and solving focus review. The PEOS usage would assist and identify main concepts in review focus, utilize appropriate searching term for conveying problem, and determine in inclusion and exclusion criteria. The focus of the article was qualitative research so that PEOS was viewed appropriate for utilizing (Bettany-saltikov & Whittaker, 2013).

**Table 1. Frame Work PEOs**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>P(Population)</th>
<th>E(Exposure)</th>
<th>Os(Outcome)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Young Women</td>
<td>The Early-Age</td>
<td>Psychological</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>aged &lt;18 years</td>
<td>Marriage</td>
<td>Disorders</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Step 2 Identifying Relevant Article

After identifying scoping review questions, the next step was identifying relevant article, in this step the reviewer identified relevant article by using inclusion and exclusion criteria.

The Wiley database, Science Direct, EBSCO, and PubMed were tools utilized for searching relevant articles. The database utilized MEDLINE which could be accessed by PubMed internet, Wiley, Science Direct, and EBSCO, adopt the strategy which entangle in searching research evidence by using various relevant sources. The reviewer sought Grey Literature by using Google Scholar as Search Engine and sought through specific website that is WHO and UNICEF. The primary points before conducting this step were as follows the database search, the appropriate type of terms, main concepts, designing early search strategy then it would be perfected or adjusted with the early objectives (Arksey et al., 2007).

After identifying keyword, it was necessary to determine the relation in using Boolean OR and AND OR operator. OR is function to find records containing any provisions, AND is function to combine two phrases together, the database are going to take records containing both terms only (EBSCO, 2021).

Step 3 Selecting Study (Selecting Article)

There were 136 relevant articles with the scoping review questions after performing articles search of all the first accessed databases. Later on, conducting screening and it was found 8 articles for collecting and reviewing based on inclusion and exclusion criteria independently. In selecting process, the reviewer utilized flowchart prism for delivering the process which had been done transparently.
Step 4 Data Mapping

Data Extraction

Table 2. Data Extraction

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Researcher/Year/Title</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
<th>Research Design</th>
<th>Data Collection</th>
<th>Research Population and Sample</th>
<th>Results</th>
<th>Article Rating</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>The Early-Age Marriage and Psychological Welfare (John et al., 2019).</td>
<td>Niger and Ethiopia</td>
<td>For examining the association of the early-age marriage with psychological welfare and its sub domain: depression, anxiety, positive well-being, vitality, self-control and public health.</td>
<td>Mix-Method design for resulting larger data representation, in-depth interview IDIs, and participation focus group discussion (PFGDs) (in-depth)</td>
<td>Utilizing multistage cluster design for resulting larger data representation, in-depth interview IDIs, and participation focus group discussion (PFGDs) (in-depth)</td>
<td>18 – 45 years old</td>
<td>The regression result multivariate stated there is huge negative relation between the early-age marriage (15 years old married or younger) and the entire psychological well-being. The entire psychological well-being on the early-age marriage in both countries beside self-control, all of sub-domain psychological</td>
<td>It’s around 10% Ethiopia women face misinformation about the appropriate married age so that it can be been sample, and some of samples are taken out, poverty, lack of education so that allowing</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
well-being, depression, anxiety, vitality and public health negative relation with the early-age marriage.

for bias towards the result of profitable mental health.

2. The Association on the Opinion of the Early Age Marriage and the Committing Suicide among Teenage Girl (Gage, 2013).

The questionnaire is translated in Amharik language, then translated to English and managed by face to face interview. It is around 5.2% on the early-age marriage women and lack of education is the victim of sexual harassment. The prevalence of opinion committing suicide and effort committing suicide in the last 3 months as big as 11.2% and 2.3%. The lack of data on suicide victims can lead to bias. However in this article can socialize to the environment for conducting prevention and reduction the rate of early-age marriage.

26

3. The Early Age Marriage in United State and Its Association with Mental Health on Women (Le Strat et al., 2011).

The data interview (AUDADIS-IV) was taken from National Epidemiologic Survey on Alcohol and Related Conditions (NESARC), the survey is face to face with 43.093 people aged 18 years or older with respond rate 81%. Most of the early-age marriage women have the mental disorder history that is 53.09%, compared with the mature-age women as big as 49.05%. Based on investigation the early-age marriage women showed psychiatric disorder hugely compared with the mature-age marriage women as big as 35.50% and 27.65%. This research used cross-sectional design so that does not allow for attribution relation between two variables. Although National Epidemiologic Survey on Alcohol and Related Condition (NESARCH) gave extensive assessment on psychiatric disorder. However in this research some of disorders are not scored such as obsessive compulsive disorder, pasca-traumatic stress disorder, and personality disorder. However this research finds the larger psychiatry disorder level.
4. The Effect of the Early-Age Marriage and Pregnancy of Teenager on Mental Health and Somatic: The Role of Partner’s Violence (Sezgin & Punamäki, 2019)

For investigating are there any relation between the early-age marriage and teenager’s pregnancy with mental health conditions. The Quantitative Questionnaire was [1-2 hour visit and collecting data in separate room. The multivariate analysis is followed by univariate analyst and Turkey—b post hoc tests. National Stressful Events Survey PTSD Short Scale (NSESSS-PTSD) translated from English to Turkish 1,569 women aged 16-72 From the early-age married women (27.6%) is hugely showing PTSD indications and 27.2% women have high GHQ-28 score over cut off point. It is around one third women face physic violence, psychological and sexual harassment by the partner. 36.5% often experience kicking, hitting, 36.1% faced pushing and slapping and 30.2% faced threat of rape occasionally. This research is type of retrospective research so that prone to bias.

5. The Evaluation of the Psychological Effect on the Early-Age Marriage (Ahmed et al., 2013)

For evaluating psychological disorder aspect and depression level as well dropout of school on the early-age married teenager girls. Quantitative Cross-sectional and observational study was conducted by questionnaire design for taking a note demographic profile and for examining depression level. 100 women aged 13-35 The early-age married women have more elevated risk facing psychological disorder. The psychiatric level on the early-age marriage is higher than the mature-age marriage. This research is quantitative. The method of the research is revealed clearly and ethic’s agreement is not included so that it’s hard to conduct analysis.


The objective of the research was for comparing the cause and the effect of health on the early-age marriage. Descriptive Comparative research The early-age married women were selected purposively from 4 healthy family centers, there were 2 from rural area and 2 from urban area. 200 women aged (15-49 years) married on the early-age. The women was recruited, 100 (50%) urban area and 100 (50%) rural area There is a significant relation between the early-age married women in rural and urban area towards the risk of physic and psychological pressure by scoring p-value 0.000. The technique of collecting data in this article is not declared in detail. Besides, the questionnaire utilized is not also explained whether adopted from others or design by self then validity test is conducted by expert.

7. The Depression Level in Teenage Girl Between the Early-Age Marriage (Indonesia)

The purpose of this research was for describing depression on teenage girl with the early-age marriage in Babakan Descriptive Explorativ e with cross-sectional approach The sampling data used sampling total and questionnaire Beck Depression Inventory-II (BDI-II), and 76 women aged 16-19 years. The result of the study showed that 68.4% women face minimal depression, even does not face depression, 11.8% face low depression, 10.5% face medium depression and 7.3% face severe depression. In this article, the total of sampling data do not appropriate with sample which taken totally. This matter is
Critical Appraisal Article

This review utilized appraisal critical referenced from (Hawker et al., 2002). In this step, there were 8 articles related to the topic and inclusion criteria which had been appointed by reviewer, for providing methodology image relatively then the accuracy of study included 9 items was developed by Hawker et al., (2002) was used by scoring abstract, reporting method, sampling analysis, ethics and bias, generalization and implication by using criteria as follows Good for 4, Fair for 3, Poor for 2, Very Poor for 1.

Step 5 Arrangement, Summary, and Reported Result

In this step, the writer describes the theme based on problem from the article obtained, then the writer conducts reconsideration regarding the context of the problem and the result of reconsiderations is outlined in the review result and discussion. The findings based on eight articles that have been analysed by the writer obtained the theme of psychological disorder and the impact of early-age marriage.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Psychological Disorder and the Effect of the Early-Age Marriage (n=8)

Anxiety, mental health disorder, stress and depression are psychological disorders of the early-age marriage which identified from eight papers. Based on [1] stated that both countries Nigeria and Ethiopia showed there is a relation between the early-age marriage attitude with psychological well-being. The Nigerian women who married on the early-age have higher psychological well-
being than in the Ethiopia women who married on the early-age. The Nigerian women tend to perceive anxiety whereas the Ethiopia women have lower risk on depression. The Nigerian women who married at 12 years old or earlier has a risk facing reduction of psychological health by 7.41%, and women who married at 15 years old facing reduction of psychological health by 3.27%. Meanwhile the Ethiopia women who married at 12 years old or earlier, the psychological health faces a reduction as big as 5.09% compared with women who married at the mature age [1]. Moreover the early-age marriage has an impact on mental health. This thing relates to unreadiness women on the pressure and responsibility as wife during marriage which leads to emotion and depression pressure. Mainly, the early-age marriage women are more risky facing anxiety during marriage than the mature-age marriage women. The result of this study is in line with research conducted by (ICRW, 2019). It stated that regression finding declares the early-age marriage (15 years old or earlier) significantly is able to reduce psychological well-being children.

Article [7] illustrated that on the measurement scale, all of respondents do not experience depression. It capable happens because of some factors such as marriage and living together. Most of respondents (89.4%) commit to married due to their own desire without compulsion by others including parents so that the risk of facing depression will be lowered since there is no compulsion. Although most of the early-age marriage women do not face depression nevertheless there are few respondents facing depression around (31.6%). The negative’s experience such as the partner’s violence, the bad treatment from partner or family, do not get partner’s attention, do not financial support, excommunicated by surrounding environment, and there is no friend to convey their problems becomes the cause of the early age-marriage depression. Furthermore, the early-age marriage women face some problems as well who can increase their burden so that it triggers stress and depression such as the problems of partner and parent’s in laws, economic problem, problem related to relation with the family. The early-age marriage can make matter worse their live load with the result that causes depression.

These findings are supported by articles [5 and 6] mentioned that there is a huge relation between the early-age marriage with physical problems and psychological pressure. As much as 45.5% women in the rural area and 76% women in the urban area conveyed that the early-age marriage has various effects on psychological health that is stress (35.4% and 35.4%), anxiety 18.2% and 36.4%, psychological pressure (19.2% and 46.6%) as well as sleeping disorder (26.3% and 16.2%) [6]. Article [5] also declared that the early-age marriage women have higher risk facing psychological disorder. The stress level on women who married under 18 years old is more elevated than the mature-age marriage [5]. According to Ahmed et al., (2014) demonstrated that the effects of the early-age marriage such as women’s freedom of speech, delivering opinion and sharing is taken away, so that lead them to get psychological illness even they become a victim of psychotic
disorder such as unconfident, unexcited, undeveloped or stay silent (Ahmed et al., 2014).

The similar results were also pointed on article [3] declared that the early-age marriage women have risk more elevated which lead them to stress compared with the mature-age women. Out of (48.40%) the early-age marriage women have >1 events which causes stress in their life and (24.29%) the early-age marriage women have >3 incidents which lead to stress [3]. This thing is caused by unstable emotion so that it is easy to fight. Besides, the maturity level which have not completed therefore they are still unstable in facing household’s problem. This result was supported by article [8] conveyed that the early-age marriage becomes the most significant determinant of increasing depression as big as 2.77 times. The early-age marriage and the negative life incident is whole-hearted social life. This matter is found as strong predictor of depression. Moreover the finding also showed the household’s conflict is discovered becomes one of determinants of depression caused by the early-age marriage. The early-age marriage has impact on mental health directly on girls and boys, well-being, discontinuation of education, the academic advances, the challenge and their offspring health problems, the relation with friends, the maturity, can hamper their health. The early-age marriage is susceptible facing depression disorder because the lack of experience and life skills as well as poor education level is able to trigger household’s conflict followed by depression indications [8].

Mental health disorder is associated to the early-age marriage case. In article [3] mentioned that the early-age marriage has some impacts on mental health. Mainly the early-age marriage women have story of mental disorder as big as 53.09% compared with the mature-age marriage women as big as 49.05%. Based on investigation, the early-age marriage women significantly is more excessive showing psychiatric disorder than the mature-age marriage women with the comparison by 35.50% and 27.65%. This research also stated that the mental health problems related to the early-age marriage women and faced higher depression indications level. It is because unreadiness for dealing with wife’s responsibility. Besides, there are differences of the reality after marriage and the expectation before marriage becomes the cause of sadness and household’s anxiety [4].

Conducting suicide becomes one of effects of psychological disorder is caused by the early-age marriage. In article [2] the thought and effort to commit suicide in the last three years had percentage of 11.2% and 2.3% respectively. The opportunity for committing suicide is higher than the effort for committing suicide. Anxiety and sadness symptoms are conveyed by the early-age marriage women lead to make high risk committing suicide. This result is supported by others researcher that conveyed out of 34.9% (n=22) who conduct the early-age marriage has opinions for committing suicide. The early-age marriage and sexual harassment on women always relates to psychological disorder such as mental health, anxiety
and depression. However psychological disorder level on sexual harassment is higher than the early-age marriage (Soylu et al., 2014).

In general, couples who experience conflict in their marriage show that there are changes in household relationship that led to psychological disorder such as stress, depression till experience mental disorder and lead to suicidal behavior. The review result (Too et al., 2019) showed that mental disorder is the main risk factor for committing suicide. People with mental disorder have eight-fold greater risk for committing suicide. It is supported by another opinion stated that, the early-age marriage often leads to psychological disorder in which become high risk for committing suicide and hurting their self. Mental disorder and depression disorder faced by teenager is one of factors related with committing suicide besides depression appears with anxiety indications. These problems lead to chronic and gain substantial disorder in person’s personality to carry out his daily responsibility; furthermore the most dangerous is depression can lead to cause someone to commit suicide mental health (WHO, 2016; World Federation for Mental Health, 2012).

The early-age marriage has harmful health and social consequences. This matter is caused by most of them is placed socially not to question the partner’s authority. The early-age marriage has impact on large health on physic and psychological disorder because women are more bear the burden. Recalling that physic and psychological disorder is often related to the early-age marriage, this problem is considered as a women’s violence (Sabbe et al., 2015). The impact of mental health on the early-age marriage can be proven on research conducted by Africa and South Asia delivered that the early-age marriage has high risk facing depression until committing suicide (Raj, 2010). The result of the study before also conveyed that the early-age marriage has far-reaching health implication and faced emotional violence for girls and their community, because this shortens the childhood, in which the happiest time for children, so that creating high risk physically and psychologically for the early-age marriage (Nour, 2006; Gunes dkk, 2016).

CONCLUSION

Largely, the result of the study revealed that the early-age marriage is able to influence psychological health on teenagers. Psychologically, the children have not ready yet and understand on how to undergo the household at the early-age and how to overcome when faced in the difficult situation which can cause psychological trauma prolonged for children’s soul. Psychological disorder experienced that is as follows mental health disorder, stress, anxiety, sadness and depression. Furthermore psychological disorder at the early-age marriage occurs in women because women are more bear burden. The results of review declare that not all of the articles mention the psychological impacts as the results of the early-age marriage specifically so it can become references for further study. The further study is necessary conducted for identifying psychological disorder on the early-age marriage, this matter due to the diversity control for overcoming psychological disorder such as anxiety, mental disorder, stress, depression and trauma.
REFERENCES


