



The Phenomenon of Pre-Marriage Pregnancy Among Adolescents: An Analysis Regarding the Causes and Solutions

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Abstract

Adolescence is vulnerable to deviant behaviour, therefore the role of the family, especially parents, is needed in supervising their children, especially teenagers. Reports from previous researchers found a high rate of teenage pregnancies before marriage and these rates have always shown an increase until now. Precisely that this research is to analyse what are the factors that cause teenage pregnancies before marriage and as solutions to prevent them. This study uses a qualitative method with a phenomenological approach. Sources of data were taken from six informants by direct interviews. All data were then analysed using the Miles and Huberman technique. The research findings show three factors causing this behaviour to occur; i) low parental supervision, ii) falling into promiscuity, iii) lack of understanding of religion. Furthermore, three ways of prevention are i) the need for parental supervision, ii) the collaboration of all parties in the community and iii) instilling religious knowledge in adolescents.

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INTRODUCTION

With today's developments, life is increasingly modern, technology is developing rapidly, and complex information flows have more or less influenced human life, especially the lives of adolescents. This fact can be seen from the occurrence of pregnancies in women out of marriage who are then married off. The term marriage for a pregnant woman is a woman who becomes pregnant before entering into a marriage contract, then marries the man who made her pregnant (Ahyani, 2016). Such cases are mostly caused by promiscuity between men and women which leads to free sex, or maybe because the love story of the two people has not been approved by their parents, and they are determined to have a love relationship with the aim of getting their blessing. This of course does not make sense according to Sharia law, because this act is included in adultery and is a grave sin. Almost all early marriages commit marriages because they have had extra-marital marital relations with their partners, they even admit the actions that they should not have done before marriage (Syahri & Afifah, 2017).

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marries the man who made her pregnant (Ahyani, 2016). Such cases are mostly caused by promiscuity between men and women which leads to free sex, or maybe because the love story of the two people has not been approved by their parents, and they are determined to have a love relationship with the aim of getting their blessing. This of course does not make sense according to Sharia law, because this act is included in adultery and is a grave sin. Almost all early marriages commit marriages because they have had extra-marital marital relations with their partners, they even admit the actions that they should not have done before marriage (Syahri & Afifah, 2017).

Not a few teenagers are easily influenced by changes and developments in the times, such as changes in association and behavior (Jannah, 2016). Pregnancy of teenage girls before marriage is included in juvenile delinquency and in everyday life can be categorized as deviant behavior. Deviant behavior can be considered a source of problems (Latif & Zulherawan, 2019). Deviant behavior occurs due to the lack of awareness of adolescents about their lives. Lubis & Nurwati, (2020) limited parental attention, religious education, knowledge of norms and not limiting adolescent association will increase juvenile delinquency rates, especially for young girls. A phenomenon of the problem of getting pregnant out of marriage among adolescents can be said to be an impact of the behavior of free sex or sex outside of marriage. Furthermore, in addition to teenage women experiencing pregnancy out of marriage, there are other impacts that may occur and befall a teenager who has premarital sex, namely from a health point of view where a child is not yet mature in terms of content, then there is also the impact of infectious diseases, stress. and depression, young marriage, and the social impact caused by the ridicule of people around and also the social impact where a child/adolescent does not yet have a mature readiness to start a household even if married (Iswadi & Khaldun, 2020).

Research related to the phenomenon of pregnancy out of marriage and its solutions have been studied previously by many researchers such as (Bukido, 2018; Pramono et al., 2019; Yanti & Fatmariza, 2019; Asman, 2020; Suprpto et al., 2020; Wiah & Sultan, 2021; Nurasyikin & Suprabowo, 2021; Alifah et al., 2021). But in this research, I got direct experience of teenagers who experienced pregnancy outside of marriage and what are the causative factors and how to solve this phenomenon.

METHODS

This study uses a qualitative method with a phenomenological approach (Muswara & Zalnur, 2019; Novebri & Pratiwi, 2021; Nurwahidin et al., 2019). This study aims to analyze what are the factors that cause pregnancy out of marriage and solutions to prevent pregnancy out of marriage. Data sources were taken from three informants through in-depth interviews who were selected using a purposive sampling technique. The data collection process was carried out individually with predetermined subjects, namely women who were pregnant out of marriage at the age of less than 21 years with details of the ages of informants i) fifteen years, informants ii) eighteen years and informants iii) twenty years and residing in the district of fifty cities. The selected informants met four criteria, namely understanding well the problems under study, being active in the field being studied, having time to provide information to researchers, and providing information in accordance with the facts that occurred in the field. One of the steps used in collecting research data is using Analysis Interactive Miles & Huberman.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Based on the results of interviews conducted with three informants, the results of the analysis actually found three factors related to the causes of pregnancy out of marriage. These three can be seen in figure 1 below:

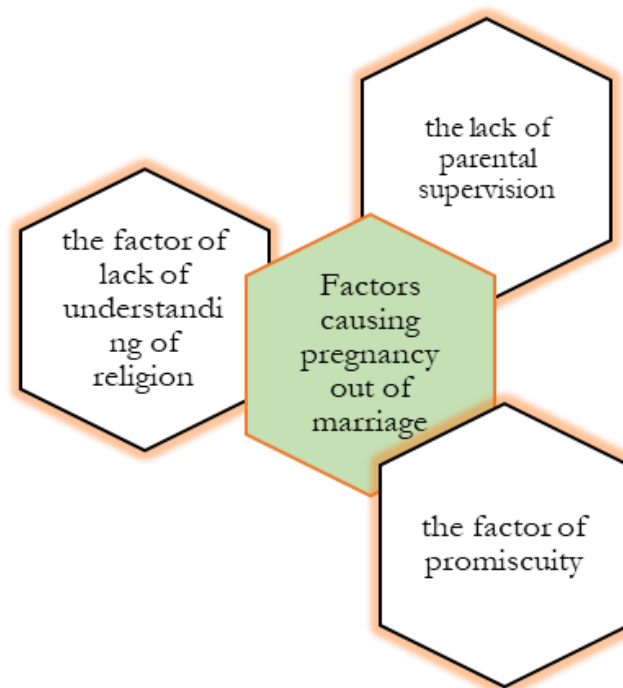


Fig 1. Factors causing pregnancy out of marriage

Based on figure1, the author can explain that after conducting in-depth interviews with informants, there are three factors that cause pregnancy out of marriage, these three factors i) low parental supervision, ii) falling into promiscuity, iii) lack of understanding of religion. To make it more interesting, in the following, the author will describe excerpts from interviews with informants based on the three factors described above. The description of the interview that the author will present is the interview excerpt, the brief statement excerpt and the information when the interview was conducted. Although the interview excerpts were conveyed by the informant in a slightly different language, they actually have more or less the same purpose and intent.

First the lack of parental supervision. Lack of parental attention to children, and the condition of parents who are far from Islamic education is a family factor that supports the occurrence of pregnancy out of marriage in adolescents (Fatmawati, 2016). Parents are busy with their work so that attention and direction to their children is very less given. Lack of attention and supervision from parents results in a child being easily persuaded by the intimate behavior of the more mature opposite sex. Caresses, attention, kisses and hugs are seen as a form of affection. In an unstable mental condition, a young person will easily be persuaded to have sexual intercourse by predators who are more mature or the same age. When parents fail to instill values in children and do not facilitate good character development, children will seek outside values and character formation will depend on exemplary behavior in the wider social environment.

Noviansah & Maemunah, (2020) The family environment is one of the main environments where children grow and are guided by good personality traits. The family environment has two influences on children's growth, can be a good supporter of children's growth, or even become a deceiver for children. Therefore, parents play a very important role in providing provision for children in delivering children to enter adolescence and join their peer age group. Being a child who is useful for his personal life, other people, and the wider environment depends on the upbringing of the child's family. However, in this interview excerpt, the author includes informants below:

... We often go alone without a third person, for example by bringing friends... (I-1). ... We were always alone together from school to school until we were both alone, just everywhere we were always together, because of this courtship I am no longer friends and only friends with my husband... (I-2). ... He often played over to my house after school and at that time no one was home... (I-3).

Second promiscuity. Association is a relationship between humans as social beings

that cannot be avoided. The association can only be in the form of a reactive relationship, where between two or more individuals only a relationship is like a question and answer. According to [Illu & Masihoru, \(2020\)](#) the association that the child has can have an influence on his growth and development and can shape the character of the child, both good character and bad character. There is association between the individuals concerned, actively and creatively creating relationships in which each promotes the value of his life and perfects his dignity. However, association can cause problems, so that in the end it can cause difficulties for the person concerned ([Utami & Raharjo, 2021](#)). Associations that cause problems and tend to be too free without parental supervision are called promiscuous associations.

[Soetari, \(2017\)](#) revealed that when a child is involved in promiscuity, the child will experience a lack of awareness and self-control of things that are not in accordance with religious norms, customs and norms that apply in society. In addition, the child often goes out late at night, associates with the opposite sex without any restrictions, bullying, accesses pornographic content, looks inappropriate for age, violates school rules and the like. Free association occurs due to a person's inability to control himself as well as the lack of social control of society towards the association of young people ([Ramadhan & Siregar, 2022](#)). Besides that, it is also caused by a shallow understanding of the meaning of love itself. And also parents support their children dating, to allow bringing girlfriends to the house. However, in this interview excerpt, the author includes informants below:

... My parents and his parents knew we were dating and didn't forbid it... (I-1). ... My parents found out we were dating because my husband used to often pick me up at home... (I-2). ... My parents know I'm dating because my boyfriend goes to my place... (I-3).

Third lack of practice of religious knowledge. It is an important element in the family. This less than small religious cultivation causes the faith of a teenager to be easily shaken, because those who have been taught religious subjects from a young age can also be shaken. [Gao & Stevanus, \(2019\)](#) crisis of spirituality as the root of a crisis of morality. Spiritual crisis can be one of the beginnings of a morality crisis which can then lead to free sex behavior among adolescents. [Octavia et al., \(2020\)](#) said that good spirituality makes humans creative to live within limits, is able to differentiate, gives a sense of morality, and is able to adjust to rules accompanied by understanding and love of boundaries. Therefore, with good spirituality, someone will realize that sex is part of God's grace. Sex is a gift from God that is given to men and women who are noble. Because of God's abundant grace. At this time there are many influences from outside that will make us fall if we don't fortify ourselves with this religious knowledge.

[Natasya & Susilawati, \(2020\)](#) Sexuality education is very necessary for the provision for the child to enter adolescence because at a young age their heterosexual interests slowly lead to certain people of the opposite sex, starting from attention that is more genital in nature to attention that is erotic in nature. However, in this interview excerpt, the author includes informants below:

... There is no prohibition for us in dating... (I-1). ... I was brought home by men, it doesn't matter to my parents... (I-2). ... I'm not really restricted from dating... (I-3).

The results of the study are based on the causes of pregnancy out of marriage among adolescents, the living conditions of adolescents who are pregnant out of marriage, and the reasons for premarital pregnant adolescents to have premarital sex are due to behavioral factors, family factors, and environmental factors which greatly affect adolescents. Behavioral factors that are not normatively controlled between adolescents of different sexes can result in sexual relations outside of marriage.



Fig 2. Solutions to prevent pregnancies outside of marriage

Based on figure 2, the author can explain that after holding in-depth interviews with informants, there are solutions to the problem of getting pregnant out of marriage, namely: First, comes from custom. If in the community there is a case such as getting pregnant outside before marriage then the action of the adat or niniak mamak will take action, namely getting married on the same day and the two perpetrators will be fined in the form of money.

Second, here the family and the environment play a very important role in shaping good adolescent personalities. This means that parents are the first environment that children encounter in their lives, if parents succeed in directing children into positive things, then children can take care of themselves when environmental factors try to influence them, and if the family does not succeed in shaping the child's character, then, of course, the child will easily be affected by unfavorable environmental factors (Dedih et al., 2019). Parents should pay more attention to their teenage children, supervise and control their child's association and be an example in family life in order to reduce the risk of getting pregnant out of marriage.

Third, for the surrounding community, they should often hold outreach about the dangers of having sexual relations outside of marriage, and revive religious education in the environment, because here the role of religious education is very important, especially to instill in teenagers, that marriage is not as simple as imagined, because it requires physical, psychological, as well as economic and social preparation (Nadirah, 2017). Teenagers should avoid free dating behavior, increase their worship, and be able to refrain from falling into things that are prohibited by religion.

CONCLUSION

Based on the discussion above, the researchers concluded that there were four factors that caused pregnancy out of marriage, while these factors were: the factor of lack of parental supervision, the factor of promiscuity, and the factor of lack of religious knowledge. Pregnancy out of marriage can occur due to a lack of attention from parents to their child's social relations and a lack of religious understanding regarding social boundaries. The association must be limited by parents and society. The solution to preventing pregnancy out of marriage is that customary people give fines for their actions in the form of money. Furthermore, parents should pay more attention to their children, especially teenagers, because at this time they are very vulnerable, supervise and control their children. socializing with children and being a role model in order to reduce the risk of getting pregnant out of

marriage. For the surrounding community, they should often hold outreach about the dangers of having sexual relations outside of marriage, and increase religious education, because in this case, religious education is the most important, especially instilled in adolescents. Teenagers would be better off not avoiding free dating behavior, focusing more on education and increasing worship, and refraining from falling into things that are prohibited by our religion.

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