

The Influence of Social Environment and Parents' Role on Parenting Self-Efficacy in Child Marriage Couples

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Abstract

Most child marriage cases somewhat harm the parenting process and self-efficacy. Regarding this issue, the present study examined the impact of social environment and parenting roles on parenting self-efficacy in child marriage couples. A quantitative approach with the ex post facto correlational design was employed by involving 109 respondents residing in two sub-districts in Semarang City. Based on the hierarchical regression test, it was found that (1) the social environment positively predicted parenting self-efficacy, and (2) democratic and permissive parenting styles positively predicted parenting self-efficacy. Thus, it can be concluded that the better the social environment and parenting roles' significance value, the more impact parenting self-efficacy in child marriage couples will have.

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INTRODUCTION

Parenting self-efficacy is explained as parental competence or abilities that positively influence children's behaviour and development (Coleman & Karraker, 2000). Other than those two, parental confidence can also affect positive parenting. High confidence is related to parents' capacity to provide an adaptive, stimulating, and nurturing environment for children.

Bandura defines self-efficacy as one's perception of how well one can function in a particular situation. Parenting self-efficacy (PSE) is a theory based on Bandura's general theory of self-efficacy. It is a belief that certain behaviour will produce a certain result, which comes from the perception of a person's competence and ability to act (Coleman & Karraker, 2000).

A previous study by Shofiah and Raudatussalmah (in Unaya et al., 2021) concludes that self-efficacy will motivate someone to do optimal actions in every situation. It is like that of Unayah et al. (2021), who studied 73 respondent mothers who previously had child marriage and found that 12 of them (16.4%) got married at above 17 years. Low parenting self-efficacy in those mothers often led to poor parenting and made them force their kids to do child marriage. On the other hand, parents with high parenting self-efficacy will prepare positive learning environments for their kids and build better confidence to socialise.

The role of parenting self-efficacy is significant because parents are the first people to provide care to kids (Pangestu et al., 2020). The positive

impact of parenting self-efficacy can improve the relationship between parents and children, love and care for children, and grow a sense of confidence in caring for children so parents can respond quickly to meeting their children's needs (Fajriyah et al., 2019). The impact of low parenting self-efficacy can influence parenting behaviour, generate low opinions on children's difficulties, and trigger high levels of stress (Indrasari & Affiani, 2018). The impact of parents' lack of ability to care for children causes a lack of interaction between parents and children (Fatmawati et al., 2017). One with low parenting self-efficacy tends to feel helpless in carrying out her task as a young mother, while the one with a high level can.

Child marriage occurs during adolescence, which is known as a period in the human life span that has several unique characteristics. This uniqueness stems from the position of adolescence as a transitional period between childhood and adulthood. In this period, major changes occur in interactions with the social environment, resulting in various impacts on them. Based on Harter (1990), there are five psychosocial cases in this period, namely identity, autonomy, intimacy, sexuality, and achievement. Within these aspects, things that can shape adolescent behaviour are intimacy, the formation of limited and close relationships with other people and sexuality, expressing feelings and feeling happy when there is physical contact with other people.

Yulia and Febriani (2020) revealed that the knowledge of young women regarding the risks of child marriage was (40.6%) or 13 respondents at the medium level, (34.4%) or 11 respondents at the poor level, and (25%) or eight respondents at the high level. These data show that the majority of respondents have medium knowledge (not significant) about the risks of child marriage, and only a small number of respondents know. Surely, several knowledge factors contribute to such results, such as education, information/mass media, social culture and economics, environment, experience, and age. Information, environmental and attitude factors for seeking information.

Regarding the previous discussion, child marriage is related to knowledge guidance and counselling of norms. This early marriage violates social norms, and it urges the instillation of attitudes and behaviour of believing in the Almighty God, simple decision-making, and self-direction skills. Adolescent development in the social field is seen from the ability to have healthy and effective social relationships with peers, family members and members of the wider social environment. This matter covers the development of the ability to behave and relate socially, both at home, at school and in the community by upholding manners, good manners, as well as religious values, customs, regulations and habits that apply.

With intensive pre-marital counselling, couples who want to get married can know their respective roles

and responsibilities as husband and wife in a new family. It is because child marriage is inseparable from the attention and role of parents who provide an understanding of the challenges of marriage. An example is a family that teaches the role of husband and wife as a unit, starting from a small family in which there is responsibility, mutual adjustment and understanding, as well as two-way communication.

A social environment greatly influences the development of adolescents. It is a place for the development of the behaviour and habits of a person. According to Purwanto (2006), the environment is everything that is around the child, covering objects and events that occur or conditions in society, especially those that can have a strong influence on students, namely school as an environment in which the educational process takes place and the environment in which the child lives. Children socialise every day. The social environment includes direct contact between one individual and another individual. Individuals usually do this daily interaction with people who are at the same level as their age, knowledge, experience, and so on. It can even happen between individuals and groups or groups and groups (Abdulah, 2011).

The social environment has a big influence on changes in adolescent behaviour and forms new behaviour, both positive and negative. However, it depends on adolescents' approach and assessment of their social environment. In the social environment, adolescents gain a lot of learning and experience in

socialising, assessing good and bad behaviour and choosing to follow which behaviour suits their personality. A good social environment will lead adolescents to become individuals who can respect and benefit others, themselves and their surroundings. Meanwhile, a bad social environment will lead them to become bad individuals, unable to control themselves and influenced by bad things from their peers.

Desiyanti's study (2015) states that there is a relationship between the role of parents in family communication and the incidence of child marriage, meaning that parents who play less of a role have a greater chance of carrying out early marriage for their children than parents who have a good role.

Child marriage results from the correlation between parental roles and social environments. The role of parents is significant in forming a child's character. Megawangi in Santika (2018) mentions several mistakes in educating children, namely not spending enough time, being verbally rude, forcing children to master cognitive abilities, and not instilling good character in children. The role of parents in providing parenting is also very important for the development of children's behaviour. Parents play a role in providing education, direction, learning about religion and life as well as giving attention so that children or teenagers do not seek attention from their friends or the opposite sex. In this problem, it is very important to have guidance in the family so that they can understand each other.

Based on observations in one of the sub-districts in Semarang City, adolescents who did child marriage w did not live with their husbands. Someone who is married and has children needs more attention from their partner, and this is something that was not found in the lives of teenagers who commit early marriages. A study by Istikoman et al. (2020) found that mothers with high levels of parenting self-efficacy attain lower stress and depression because they can structure their environments, while the opposite cannot and even get stressed easily.

The finding of a study by Zuraidah and Rifauzi (2023) has confirmed that the lack of parental roles in educating children is the cause of child marriage and seeking attention from others. Parents who are busy working outside and do not pay enough attention to their children every day result in children being free to associate with bad things.

An investigation conducted by Pramono et al. (2019) in Semarang City surprisingly shows that society has accepted the occurrence of child marriage. It results in the absence of social sanctions that can have a deterrent effect. Parental education level, trauma and heredity also play a role in the incidence of early marriage. Some respondents thought that getting pregnant out of wedlock was acceptable because their parents also had the same history, so child marriages could not be avoided. Further, the couples previously often had free sex when dating.

Research findings have proved that the social environment and the role

of parents can influence the parenting self-efficacy of child marriage couples (Istikomah et al., 2020; Zuraidah et al., 2023; Pramono et al., 2019). These two somehow illustrate that the social environment shapes a person's ability to parenting self-efficacy, and the role of parents in the parenting style can influence the formation of parenting self-efficacy in a person. All these two must be known by child marriage couples so that they can educate their children according to the parenting style that is applied and explain how the environment can shape their kids.

This study attempted to test whether there was an impact of the social environment and the role of parents on parenting self-efficacy in child marriage couples. If early marriage offenders' parenting self-efficacy is influenced by their social environment and parental role, then young parents can offer parenting styles that fit their role. Because of this, those who commit early marriage can satisfy their responsibility as young parents by meeting the requirements of their kids.

METHODS

This study's respondents were 109 people who got married at the age of 14 to 18 and resided in two sub-districts in Semarang City using a cluster random sampling technique. By the time they filled out the instrument, they were between the ages of 16 and 33.

Several instruments used in this study were the scales of parenting self-efficacy, social environment and parental role developed by the researchers. The Parenting Self-Efficacy

Scale has 33 items consisting of 5 indicators: Achievement (6 items), Recreation (8 items), Discipline (6 items), Nurturance (6 items), and Health (7 items). From the results of the tryout, there were 33 valid items with a total correlation coefficient ranging from 0.897 – 0.907. The results of the reliability test on the Parenting Self-Efficacy variable obtained a Cronbach's alpha coefficient of 0.702. Such a score was obtained from the 33 items tested on 31 respondents. Each item on the scale had four answer choices, namely: (4 = Strongly Agree to 1 = Strongly Disagree).

The social environment questionnaire has 30 items consisting of 4 indicators: Family Environment (5 items), School Environment (6 items), Peer Environment (11 items), and Community Environment (8 items). From the results of the tryout, there were 30 valid items with a total correlation coefficient ranging from 0.676 – 0.720. The results of the reliability test on social environment variables obtained a Cronbach's alpha coefficient of 0.873. Such a score was obtained from the 30 valid items tested on 31 respondents. Each item on the scale has four answer choices, namely: (4 = Strongly Agree to 1 = Strongly Disagree).

The parental role questionnaire has 30 items consisting of 4 indicators: Authoritarian parenting style (8 items), Democratic parenting style (9 items), Neglectful parenting style (10 items), and Permissive parenting style (3 items). From the results of the tryout, there were 30 valid items, with a total

correlation coefficient ranging from 0.864 – 0.879. The results of the reliability test on the parental role variable obtained a Cronbach's alpha coefficient of 0.903. Such score was derived from the 30 valid items tested on 31 respondents. Each item on the scale has four answer choices, namely: (4 = Strongly Agree, 1 = Strongly Disagree).

The data collected in this research were analysed through hypothesis testing using the F test, which has previously been tested for normality, and hierarchical regression tests in the SPSS program.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The following data description specifically presents the intercorrelation of the mean and standard deviation of social environment, parental role and parenting self-efficacy. Based on the results of descriptive analysis, the mean value of social environment (M= 81.65 categorised as high tendency; SD=12.981); mean parental role (M= 83.21 categorised as high tendency; SD=19.185); mean parenting self-efficacy (M= 93.30 categorised as high tendency; SD=16.649). Those can be seen in Table 1.

Table 1. The Results of Descriptive Statistical Analysis

	N	Mean	SD
LP	109	81.65	12.981
POT	109	83.21	19.185
PSE	109	93.30	16.649

Information:

LP: Social Environment; POT: Parental Role; PSE: Parenting Self-Efficacy

The results of descriptive statistics on all research variables showed that the mean value (M) was greater than the standard deviation (SD), meaning that such data had a good representation of the data distribution.

Table 2. Hierarchical Regression Test Results

Predict or	Model 1			Model 2		
	β	T	p	β	T	p
LK	1.07	2.07	< 0.5	-0.15	-0.03	> 0.5
LS	0.22	0.48	> 0.5	0.13	0.03	> 0.5
LTS	0.92	2.51	< 0.5	0.94	0.3	< 0.5
LM	0.96	2.48	< 0.5	-0.4	-0.1	> 0.5
PAO				0.48	0.19	> 0.5
PAD				0.84	0.33	< 0.5
PAPL				0.23	0.18	> 0.5
PAP				1.45	0.2	< 0.5
Δ R					0.14	
Δ R ²					0.19	
Δ F					11.24	
p					< 01	
R		0.607			0.75	
R ²		0.37			0.57	
F		15.207			16.22	
p		< 01			< 01	

Information:

LK: family environment; LS: school environment; LTS: peer environment; LM: community environment; PAO: authoritarian parenting style; PAD: democratic parenting; PAPL: neglectful parenting; PAP: permissive parenting style.

According to the above hierarchical regression analysis, it is known that there was a relationship between the social environment and parenting self-efficacy (R= 0.607, p < 01). The social environment explained the variance in parenting self-efficacy by 37%. Specifically, among several types of social environment, the results of hierarchical regression have confirmed that only the peer environment

positively predicted parenting self-efficacy ($\beta = 0.92$, $p < 01$). Meanwhile, other social environments, namely the family environment, school environment, and community environment, did not significantly predict parenting self-efficacy.

Another explanation of the above analysis is that there was a relationship between the role of parents and parenting self-efficacy ($R = 0.14$, $p < 01$). The role of parents explained the variance in parenting self-efficacy by 19%. Specifically, among several types of parental roles, it has been confirmed that democratic parenting ($\beta = 0.84$, $p < 01$) and permissive parenting ($\beta = 1.45$, $p < 01$) positively predicted parenting self-efficacy. Meanwhile, other parental roles, namely authoritarian parenting and neglectful parenting, did not correlate significantly with parenting self-efficacy.

Of the above two descriptions, the social environment and the role of parents significantly affected parenting self-efficacy ($R = 0.75$, $p < 01$). In detail, the two predictors of this study explained the variance in parenting self-efficacy by 57% ($R^2 = 0.57$).

About the findings, the social environment and the role of parents had a very significant impact on parenting self-efficacy, so there was a significant and positive influence on parenting self-efficacy in child marriage couples. It somehow confirms that when child marriage couples live in a bad environment of parenting, their parenting styles will not be good, even causing permissive parenting styles. Here, they need autonomy in caring for

their children independently and have personal freedom so that they can fulfil their freedom in caring for their children.

This study was directed towards the influence of the social environment and the role of parents on parenting self-efficacy in child marriage couples. Based on the findings, it was found that the social environment that most influenced parenting self-efficacy was the peer environment. The peer environment greatly influences the formation of a person's ability to educate their children. It made a comparison and benchmark for whether their parenting self-efficacy skills have been carried out correctly or not. It can be said that peers had concerns about child care.

By referring to the findings, the social environment had a positive and significant effect on parenting self-efficacy in child marriage couples. Therefore, the better the social environment, the better the parenting self-efficacy of child marriage couples. Related to the social environment on parenting self-efficacy, there were no relevant journals that could be used as a reference in this study. Hence, the researchers adjusted the gap comparison to the research subjects, namely child marriage couples. The first study is by Pramono (2019), who revealed that there is a significant influence on social and social environmental factors for child marriage couples, which shows a percentage of 87%. It can mean that the social and social environment becomes a supporting factor; namely, social environment is one of the factors that

influence the lack of knowledge of child marriage couples about sex education and the low impact of early marriage.

The second supporting study was done by Ramadhan et al. (2023). They found that the social or social environment influences a mother's self-efficacy in parenting behaviour towards her child. It was realised by the influence of a group of mother's gossip which later becomes a trigger to demotivate a mother because what happens to herself and her child is not under common standards, culture or habits in the surrounding environment.

The role of parents had a positive and significant influence on parenting self-efficacy in child marriage couples. This means that the better the role of parents given, the better the parenting self-efficacy of those involved in child marriage. This can be proven by theoretical guidance by Bandura (in Desjardin, 2003) that parenting self-efficacy is a parent's perception of their competence in carrying out their parental role and believing that their ability can complete their tasks as a parent.

Another finding of this study was that the role of parents had a positive and significant influence, namely democratic parenting and permissive parenting. A democratic parenting style could successfully educate and care for children. It can be seen from the ability of parents to shape their children to have self-confidence, be able to control themselves, be polite, be willing to work together, have high curiosity, have a clear direction in life, and be achievement-oriented. Permissive

parenting was still able to make a contribution, although not as big as democratic parenting. The hope is that when child marriage couples have kids, they can have autonomy in raising their children independently.

A study by Ardi et al. (2021) revealed that the role of parents or parenting patterns strongly and significantly influences parenting self-efficacy. Parents' role greatly influences children's development because children spend more time with them, showing that the biggest emotional influence comes from the family.

Attaining parenting self-efficacy skills is a must in caring for children. Parenting self-efficacy is a parent's belief in their abilities to raise their child successfully. This can affect children's behaviour and development. To increase parenting self-efficacy, child marriage couples can observe their social environment and the role of other parents' parenting styles.

CONCLUSION

About the findings and discussion, several conclusions are drawn. First, the social environment and the role of parents have a positive and significant influence on parenting self-efficacy in child marriage couples. Second, parenting self-efficacy is influenced by the peer environment and the role of parents who use democratic parenting and permissive parenting. In other words, the better the social environment and the role of parents, the better the parenting self-efficacy. Based on these findings, counsellors or school counsellors are expected to pay more

attention to the development of problems faced by their students in terms of their social environment and the role of parents. It is expected that future researchers will be able to use other analytical methods, such as qualitative methods, to obtain more in-depth results. They can also use broader objects and examine other factors that can influence parenting self-efficacy in child marriage couples.

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