



Assessing Child Marriage in Indonesia: A Call for Educational Empowerment

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Abstract

Although the age of first marriage is generally increasing, many young women continue to marry as children in Indonesia. This study aims to assess the prevalence and predictors of child marriage in Indonesia. The data were obtained from the 2019 Performance and Accountability Survey of Population, Family Planning, and Family Development with a total sample of 46,220 married reproductive-age women. Multivariate binary logistic regression models were used to identify the significant associated predictors of child marriage. Overall, the prevalence of child marriage was 23.7 percent and ranged from only 0.1 percent in West Papua to 27.7 percent in West Java Province. Child marriage practice was found to be 54.80 (95%, CI: 41.01, 73.24) and 47.42 (95%, CI: 37.18, 60.49) times higher among uneducated women with primary education level compared to educated women with a university level of education. Those who live in Kalimantan islands were 2.13 (95%, CI: 1.73, 2.60) times more likely to experience child marriage compared to women who live in Maluku or Papua Islands. Child marriage was 1.28 (95%, CI: 1.22, 1.35) higher among rural residents compared to urban. The government, the private sector, and the community must continue empowering young girls, particularly regarding education.

Introduction

Child marriage is a public health concern and also a human rights violation that exposes children to the risk of exploitation, violence, and abuse. Article 1 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) states that a person is considered a child if they are younger than 18 years old (Nawaz *et al.*, 2021). According to UNICEF, Child marriage refers to any marriage or union in which one or both spouses are under the age of 18 years. Over the past decade, this issue has been addressed in a variety of ways on a global level. Indonesia is one of the 194 nations that have ratified The CRC through Presidential Decree Number 36 of 1990 and then ratified The Child Protection Act Law Number 23 of 2002 (Makka *et al.*, 2020). The Indonesian government has been actively involved in international conventions and set development

goals that are committed to stopping child marriage and complying with human rights standards stated in the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The SDGs include a target to end the harmful practice of child marriage by 2030. Specifically, Target 5.3 seeks to eliminate all harmful practices such as child, early and forced marriage, and female genital mutilation. The *Girls Not Brides* initiative also revealed that unless significant progress is made to prevent early marriage, eight of the 17 SDGs may be accomplished (Girls Not Brides, 2020). Even though the above strategies have been implemented, Indonesia has one of the highest prevalences of child marriage worldwide (BPS *et al.*, 2020). Indonesia ranks seventh in the global top ten, with the highest absolute number of child marriages in 2016 (UNICEF Indonesia, 2016).

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The Indonesian government tries to regulate marriage with a national law that bonds to all Indonesian citizens. This law is expected to create legal unification in marriage and family laws. Per 2019 the law on “Marriage” fulfilled/completed prior, the legal minimum age for marriage in Indonesia is 19 years for both males and females. However, the law would allow for earlier marriage under particular circumstances, that is, through marriage dispensation. Marriage dispensation is a deviation from the minimum age requirement, which should have been submitted for urgent reasons and is only granted by the Court or other official, accompanied by sufficient supporting evidence. However, the reasons sometimes are less urgent (“unintended pregnancy”, “the feeling of love”, “felt a good fit”), resulting in the legality of underage marriage (Makka *et al.*, 2020; Mayandra, 2020).

Although the age of first marriage is generally increasing, many young women continue to marry as children in Indonesia, and this has not changed much. Through the 2020-2024 National Medium Term Development Plan (RPJMN), the Indonesian government is targeting to reduce child marriage from 11.2% in 2018 to 8.74% in 2024. It is targeted that the prevalence of early marriage by 2030 is 6.94% (BPS *et al.*, 2020). However, over the past decade, Indonesia has only attained a 3.5% decline, from 14.67% in 2008 to 11.21% in 2018 (BPS *et al.*, 2020). Across Indonesia, 11.21% of women between 20 and 24 were married before age 18, and over 61,000 young women were married before their 15th birthday (BPS *et al.*, 2020). In Indonesia, the practice of child marriage varies between provinces and is frequently concentrated in specific geographic regions or among particular ethnic groups. In 2020, data from 34 provinces reported that the highest prevalence of child marriage was in Sulawesi Island and Kalimantan Island. Data indicated that the child marriage cases were 19.43% in West Sulawesi, 19.13% in Central Kalimantan, 18.96% in Southeast Sulawesi, 17.64% in West Kalimantan and 17.63% in South Kalimantan (BPS *et al.*, 2020).

Previous studies have reported different reasons or causes for child marriage. In specific contexts, economic or financial concerns may

play a more significant role than social status, cultural norms, lack of education, employment opportunities, fear of girls’ sexuality, and unplanned pregnancy (Belachew *et al.*, 2022; Najib *et al.*, 2021; Nawaz *et al.*, 2021; Psaki *et al.*, 2021; Subramanee *et al.*, 2022; Tekile *et al.*, 2020). Although boys are also married off as minors, girls are affected by child marriage in significantly higher proportions than boys. This incidence is a manifestation of gender inequality. In Indonesia, 11% of women between the ages of 20 and 24 married before turning 18, compared to one percent of men in the same age group (BPS *et al.*, 2020). Furthermore, the majority of child-married cases indicated that girls are married to older men. Girls are not physically, physiologically, and psychologically mature enough to shoulder the responsibilities as spouses, homegrown laborers, and eventually a mother at a bit of age (Girls Not Brides, 2020; Nawaz *et al.*, 2021; Subramanee *et al.*, 2022; Tekile *et al.*, 2020).

In addition, child marriage also implies gender inequality in determining their rights and choice to acquire education (Judiasih *et al.*, 2020). In many societies within Indonesia, getting married earlier means the girls must fade away from their dream to attain a high education level because the education system does not accommodate it. Besides, in a country with a patriarchal ideology, married girls in Indonesia tend to devote their time and energy to their families, so they have to leave their school, and their education level is lower, influencing their rights to engage in labor force participation (Judiasih *et al.*, 2020). Early marriage has been associated with increased household poverty, fewer employment chances, school withdrawals, less dynamic power within the marital home, less authority over necessary family resources, and an increased risk of intimate partner violence (Girls Not Brides, 2020; Mayandra, 2020; Nawaz *et al.*, 2021; Subramanee *et al.*, 2022).

Child marriage has several detrimental effects on the health and social standing of both women and their children (Subramanee *et al.*, 2022; Tekile *et al.*, 2020). Young women who married early were more likely to experience unwanted pregnancies. Due to her narrow pelvis and impending childbirth, the young girl

may deliver her baby early or late, both of which can be dangerous (Nawaz *et al.*, 2021). Ten to 14-year-old girls had a five to seven times higher risk of dying during childbirth due to post-pregnancy drain, sepsis, and labor difficulties (Girls Not Brides, 2020; Nawaz *et al.*, 2021). Moreover, babies born to girls under the age of 15 are more likely to be stunted, have low birth weights, have inadequate nutrition, and are at a higher risk of dying before their fifth birthday (Girls Not Brides, 2020). Mentally, these risks include depression and suicidality (Nawaz *et al.*, 2021). Progress is needed to achieve SDG 5.3 and the 2020-2024 National Medium Term Development Plan target. UNICEF stated that, by completing these targets, millions of young women would have the chance to live a better life and access all the opportunities available. Furthermore, The Child Protection Law clearly states the obligation to prevent child marriage. Providing information on the incidence of child marriage and contributing factors will simplify the strategies for reducing child marriage. Therefore, this study aimed to determine the prevalence of child marriage, as well as its predictors in Indonesia. The findings of this study will make an input for the policymakers and planners to respond to the practice of child marriage.

Method

This study utilized data from the Indonesian Performance and Accountability Survey of Population, Family Planning, and Family Development (SKAP), a nationally and provincially representative household survey conducted by the National Population and Family Planning Board in 2019. Stratified sampling in two stages was used to choose study participants. In the first stage, Enumeration Areas (EAs) were chosen randomly, and in the second stage, households were selected (BKKBN, 2019). A total weighted sample of 46,220 married women between the ages of 15 and 49 was included in the study. The primary outcome measure was child marriage, defined as young women first married (formal or informal union) with their partner before reaching 18 years of age. The data was classified into two categories: “yes” =1 for women whose first cohabitation or marriage happened before

their 18th birthday, and “no” =0 for those who first married or cohabitated after turning 18. The independent variables included in the analysis were age, educational level, women’s employment status, wealth index, media exposure, place of residence, and region.

The analysis of the data was done with SPSS version 23. Both bivariate and multivariate binary logistic regressions were performed. Bivariate logistic regression was performed, and variables with a p-value of less than 0.05 were included in the multivariable binary logistic regression analysis to identify the predictors of child marriage among married women of reproductive age. Variables in the multivariate logistic regression were considered statistically significant if their p-values were less than 0.05. The association was provided as an odds ratio with 95% confidence intervals.

Results and Discussion

Descriptive results in Table 1 showed that one in five (23.7%) women married before 18. This finding is higher than previous studies conducted in Indonesia, which was between 14% and 16% (Berliana *et al.*, 2021; Rumble *et al.*, 2018; Wahyudi *et al.*, 2019). Apart from being pregnant outside marriage, the high prevalence of child marriage in Indonesia correlated with several circumstances, including socioeconomic status, religious beliefs, and cultural values (Astuti *et al.*, 2021; Laksono *et al.*, 2021; Makka *et al.*, 2020; Mayandra, 2020). With the largest Muslim population, the nation places a high value on virginity and defines marriage as a means of preventing illicit sexual activity (Astuti *et al.*, 2021; Laksono *et al.*, 2021). In some communities, parents would prefer to marry their daughters off than have them become unsaleable maidens (Astuti *et al.*, 2021; Najib *et al.*, 2021; Widyastari *et al.*, 2020). Table 1 presents the characteristics of women in this study. Of the total respondents, 40.1% of women were aged between 35-44 years, 32.5% had primary education, 65.1% had no work, and 84.4% had media exposure. More than half (52.6%) of women were rural dwellers. Regarding their economic status, 23.6% of women were from a poor wealth index. The highest proportion of women resided on Java Island (60.9%). Being geographically

TABLE 1. Characteristics of Reproductive Age Women in Indonesia (n=46,220)

Variables	Categories	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Woman's age (years)	15-19	611	1.3
	20-24	3,872	8.4
	25-29	7,063	15.3
	30-34	8,496	18.4
	35-39	9,572	20.7
	40-44	8,966	19.4
	45-49	7,639	16.5
Level of education	Uneducated	640	1.4
	Primary	15,042	32.5
	Lower secondary	11,677	25.3
	Upper secondary	13,756	29.8
	Higher secondary or further	5,106	11.0
Women's employment	Unemployed	30,075	65.1
	Employed	16,145	34.9
Wealth Index	Poor	10,901	23.6
	Middle	22,098	47.8
	Rich	13,222	28.6
Media exposure	No	7,205	15.6
	Yes	39,015	84.4
Place of residence	Rural	24,300	52.6
	Urban	21,920	47.4
Region	Java	28,168	60.9
	Sumatra	9,141	19.8
	Kalimantan	2,768	6.0
	Sulawesi	2,795	6.0
	Bali & Nusa Tenggara	2,355	5.1
	Maluku & Papua	993	2.1
Child marriage	Yes	10,965	23.7
	No	35,255	76.3

clustered, the practice of child marriage in Indonesia, which has 34 provinces, is not equally distributed. The highest rate of child marriage was observed in West Java (27.7%), which was more than the national rate average, followed by Central Java (14.4%) and East Java (14.1%). It is interesting that most provinces on Java Island, except Yogyakarta and Jakarta, showed a higher prevalence of child marriage than other provinces within Indonesia. Other than higher population numbers, the wide diversity of socio-cultural and economic status across provinces on this island might be the

reason for this condition. With the majority of adherents of Islam, marriage practice in some provinces in this region might be influenced by religious values. Maintaining religious norms by preventing premarital sex is one of the popular reasons prevailing in Muslim societies (Kusmayanti & Mulyanto, 2020). In addition, in many highly populated poor communities, early marriage is also considered a solution to the economic burden (Judiasih, 2020). A study in a district in East Java province revealed that marrying a daughter as early as possible would reduce a parent's financial burden because her

husband would take responsibility for her, including her spending (Rofika & Hariastuti, 2020). Nevertheless, this expectation often seems far from reality because most early married women have an unstable income because of low educational attainment, which may aggravate a financial burden on families. On the other hand, the lowest child marriage prevalence was found in West Papua (0.1%), followed by Riau Island, North Kalimantan, and Maluku, each 0.3% (Figure 1). The low prevalence of child marriage in these Provinces can be attributed to several factors. Riau island for example, generally has higher levels of economic development, better educational infrastructures, and higher rates of girls completing secondary education, which correlates with a reduction in child marriage (Rumble *et al.*, 2018; Utomo *et al.*, 2022). As for Papua and Maluku, this can be attributed to traditional customs, where formal marriage registration is not always prioritized and many rural and remote areas have limited access to government services, including legal systems

for marriage registration (Girls Not Brides, 2020).

As shown in Table 2, child marriage was significantly associated with all the independent variables ($p\text{-value}=0.000 < 0.005$). The highest proportion of child marriage was observed in the age group 15-19 years (69.2%). The educational level and child marriage cross-tabulation also revealed that a minor proportion of child marriage (1.4%) was observed for women having higher or further education. In contrast, the highest proportion of child marriage was observed for uneducated women (41.6%). Child marriage practice was common among unemployed women (24.8%). Regarding economic status, the proportion of child marriage was highest among the poor wealth index (32.1%). The proportion of child marriage was significantly higher among women who had no exposure to media (34.1%) and residing in rural areas (29.4%). Regarding regional distribution, the proportion of child marriage was 29.5%, 27.3%, and 25.0% among women living in Kalimantan, Sulawesi, and

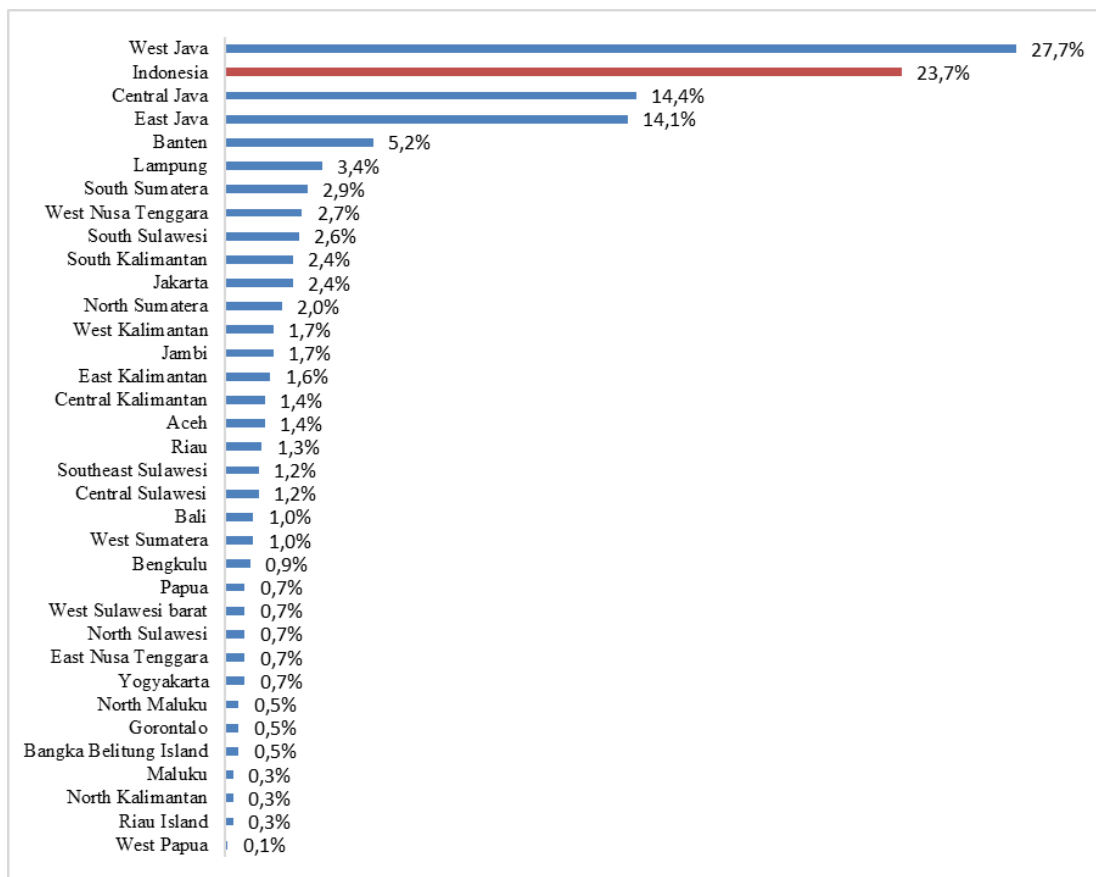


FIGURE 1. Prevalence of Child Marriage in 34 Provinces in Indonesia

TABLE 2. Distribution of child marriage by women's characteristics (SKAP, 2019)

Variables	Categories	Child Marriage		P-value
		Yes (%)	No (%)	
Woman's age (years)	15-19	423 (69.2%)	188 (30.8%)	0.000
	20-24	1,017 (26.3%)	2,855 (73.7%)	
	25-29	1,386 (19.6%)	5,676 (80.4%)	
	30-34	1,704 (20.1%)	6,793 (79.9%)	
	35-39	2,116 (22.1%)	7,456 (77.9%)	
	40-44	2,245 (25.0%)	6,721 (75.0%)	
	45-49	2,073 (27.1%)	5,566 (72.9%)	
Level of Education	Uneducated	282 (44.1%)	358 (55.9%)	0.000
	Primary	6,258 (41.6%)	8,783 (58.4%)	
	Lower secondary	3,288 (28.2%)	8,389 (71.8%)	
	Upper secondary	1,067 (7.8%)	12,689 (92.2%)	
	Higher secondary or further	70 (1.4%)	5,036 (98.6%)	
Women's employment	Unemployed	7,463 (24.8%)	22,612 (75.2%)	0.000
	Employed	3,502 (21.7%)	12,643 (78.3%)	
Wealth Index	Poor	3,495 (32.1%)	7,405 (67.9%)	0.000
	Middle	5,643 (25.5%)	16,455 (74.5%)	
	Rich	1,828 (13.8%)	11,394 (86.2%)	
Media exposure	No	2,458 (34.1%)	4,748 (65.9%)	0.000
	Yes	8,507 (21.8%)	30,507 (78.2%)	
Place of Residence	Rural	7,144 (29.4%)	17,155 (70.6%)	0.000
	Urban	3,821 (17.4%)	18,100 (82.6%)	
Region	Java	7,052 (25.0%)	21,116 (75.0%)	0.000
	Sumatra	1,681 (18.4%)	7,461 (81.6%)	
	Kalimantan	816 (29.5%)	1,953 (70.5%)	
	Sulawesi	762 (27.3%)	2,033 (72.7%)	
	Bali & Nusa Tenggara	486 (20.6%)	1,869 (79.4%)	
	Maluku & Papua	169 (17.0%)	824 (83.0%)	

Java, respectively.

Table 3 presents the results of multivariate logistic regression analysis. Of the sociodemographic factors, the study found that women with low educational attainment, women residing in rural areas, and women living in Kalimantan and Sulawesi areas were more susceptible to being married off at an early age compared to their better-educated, residing in urban areas and living in Maluku and Papua counterparts. Regarding educational level, the study found that the odds of child marriage were 54.8 (95% CI: 41.00, 73.24) times higher among

uneducated women and 47.4 (95% CI: 37.18, 60.49) times higher among those women with primary education compared to women who had Diploma or further degree of education. Higher-educated women probably have more knowledge about the appropriate age to be married and the consequences of having an early marriage, which empowers them to make informed marriage-related decisions. Higher education is frequently associated with higher socioeconomic status, allowing people to access resources and services and influencing their knowledge and awareness about child marriage

(Fatima, 2023). In many cases, education and financial capacity are directly interrelated. More often, financially struggling families choose to marry off their daughters to relieve some financial burden rather than pay for their daughters' education. Girls and their families may see marriage as the only realistic option when the opportunity for continued schooling is limited. This finding is similar to previous studies conducted in Bangladesh, Ghana, Iraq (Saleheen *et al.*, 2021), Nepal (Marphatia *et al.*, 2021), Amhara Region of Ethiopia (Tekile *et al.*, 2020), Zambia (Phiri *et al.*, 2023) and nine Sub-Saharan African countries (Belachew *et al.*, 2022) which found that women's educational level was a strong predictor of child marriage. Improving access to secondary education, offering scholarships for girls, and providing social safety nets for families in poverty have shown success in reducing child marriage practices.

The type of residence was reported as being associated with child marriage. Women living in rural areas were 1.28 (95% CI: 1.22, 1.35) more likely to get married before age 18 than those living in urban areas. This finding is similar to a previous study from Indonesia (Wahyudi *et al.*, 2019) and those from four countries in South Asia: Bangladesh, Nepal, India, and Pakistan (Scott *et al.*, 2021), Iraq (Saleheen *et al.*, 2021), Amhara Region of Ethiopia (Tekile *et al.*, 2020), Nigeria (Avogo & Somefun, 2019) and nine Sub-Saharan African countries (Belachew *et al.*, 2022). The situation may result from girls' limited access to education and employment opportunities. In rural areas, girls face numerous barriers to education and employment, with limited access to schools, healthcare, and economic resources. These factors create a cycle of poverty where marriage is often viewed as the best option for a girl's future. Furthermore, cultural traditions, such as arranged marriages, continue to prevail in rural areas, where families see marriage as a way to ensure social security for their daughters. This dynamic is worsened by the low decision-making power of girls, who are rarely consulted in matters of marriage (Psaki *et al.*, 2021). Additionally, weak enforcement of child marriage laws in rural areas contributes to the persistence of this harmful practice. These

findings suggest that addressing child marriage in rural areas requires a multifaceted approach, tackling both the structural inequalities and deeply ingrained cultural practices that drive early marriage.

Furthermore, child marriage is the consequence of dowry practices in Central and South Sulawesi, where the 'price' of girls will increase as the age rises (Ratnaningsih *et al.*, 2022). In this case, parents may arrange marriage as soon as possible to prevent paying a higher dowry to the bride's family. The study reveals significant geographical disparities in child marriage across Indonesia's regions, with the odds of child marriage being 1.24 times higher in Sumatra, 1.78 times higher in Java, 2.13 times higher in Kalimantan, 2.01 times higher in Sulawesi, and 1.24 times higher in Bali and Nusa Tenggara, as compared to Maluku and Papua. In keeping with the simplicity of the result interpretation, the child marriage cases were classified by regions based on geographic location for both bivariate and multivariate analysis. Thus, the prevalence showed slight differences compared to one in a single province. The difference was striking among provinces in the Java region, with the possibility of the influence of minor incidences of child marriage in the Yogyakarta and Jakarta provinces. The bivariate analysis presented in Table 2 showed that among married women, the percentage of child marriage was high in the regions of Kalimantan (29.5%), Sulawesi (27.3%), and Java (25%). These findings align with global trends in child marriage, such as those observed in Ethiopia, where similar regional differences are shaped by a complex interplay of cultural and socioeconomic factors (Alem *et al.*, 2020). Kalimantan, with the highest likelihood of child marriage, illustrates the role of economic stressors. In this region, poverty plays a significant role, compelling families to marry off their daughters early as a strategy to reduce financial burdens (Susanti *et al.*, 2021). Early marriage is often seen as a way to limit household expenses, particularly in areas where girls' education is viewed as secondary to their roles as wives and mothers. Moreover, economic hardships often force children to drop out of school, perpetuating a cycle of poverty and limiting their prospects,

TABLE 3. Factors associated with child marriage in Indonesia (SKAP, 2019)

Variable	Categories	OR (95% CI)	P-value
Woman's age (years)	45-49 (ref)	1	0.000
	15-19	9.21 (7.55, 11.23)	0.000
	20-24	1.54 (1.40, 1.70)	0.000
	25-29	1.09 (1.00, 1.19)	0.051
	30-34	0.97 (0.90, 1.05)	0.515
	35-39	0.99 (0.91, 1.06)	0.730
	40-44	0.95 (0.88, 1.02)	0.186
Level of Education	Higher secondary or further (ref)	1	0.000
	Uneducated	54.80 (41.00, 73.24)	0.000
	Primary	47.42 (37.18, 60.49)	0.000
	Lower secondary	24.71 (19.38, 31.50)	0.000
	Upper secondary	5.59 (4.37, 7.16)	0.000
Women's employment	Unemployed (ref)	1	
	Employed	1.04 (0.99, 1.10)	0.093
Wealth Index	Poor (ref)	1	0.844
	Middle	1.02 (0.96, 1.08)	0.585
	Rich	1.00 (0.93, 1.08)	0.898
Media exposure	Yes (ref)	1	
	No	1.05 (0.99, 1.11)	0.108
Place of Residence	Urban (ref)	1	
	Rural	1.28 (1.22, 1.35)	0.000
Region	Maluku & Papua (ref)	1	0.000
	Java	1.78 (1.48, 2.14)	0.000
	Sumatra	1.24 (1.03, 1.51)	0.025
	Kalimantan	2.13 (1.73, 2.61)	0.000
	Sulawesi	2.01 (1.64, 2.47)	0.000
	Bali & Nusa Tenggara	1.24 (1.00-1.53)	0.048

further reinforcing early marriage as a viable solution.

In Sulawesi, cultural norms exert a strong influence on child marriage. Traditional beliefs dictate that adulthood begins after marriage, pushing parents to marry off their daughters as soon as they reach puberty (Idrus, 2022). Additionally, dowry practices in regions like Central and South Sulawesi exacerbate the situation. The cultural expectation that a bride's dowry increases with age incentivizes parents to arrange marriages early, to avoid higher dowry payments later (Ratnaningsih *et al.*, 2022). These norms not only reinforce gendered expectations but also create financial

motivations for child marriage, intertwining cultural traditions with economic pressures. Java and Sumatra, while experiencing slightly lower rates of child marriage compared to Kalimantan and Sulawesi, are still affected by deeply ingrained religious and socio-cultural values. In these regions, particularly in rural areas, marriage is often seen as a means to preserve family honor, especially in cases where premarital relationships are suspected. As in many other parts of Indonesia, religious interpretations that emphasize the importance of female chastity before marriage also contribute to the practice of child marriage, especially in conservative rural communities.

These findings demonstrate that child marriage is not merely a product of economic disadvantage, but also deeply rooted in cultural and religious traditions. Addressing child marriage in Indonesia requires a multifaceted approach that tackles both the economic drivers, such as poverty and lack of education, and the socio-cultural norms that continue to sustain the practice. Given this study has used national and provincial data, which was collected using standard and validated data collection tools, the finding of this study provides a picture of child marriage in Indonesia. However, the study has several limitations. First, due to the data's cross-sectional nature, this study could not show causality between dependent variables and child marriage. Second, there is a possibility of recall bias because the survey participants were asked to report events that happened in the past. Finally, the outcome variable was measured retrospectively using the reported age at first marriage for the currently married women. However, the independent variables reference when the survey was conducted, meaning there is a possibility of a variance between the factors at the time of marriage and those at the time of the survey.

Conclusions

This study established the prevalence and highlighted factors associated with child marriage in Indonesia. The study identified educational level, place of residence, and region as the main factors related to child marriage practice. Because women's level of education was a significant factor in child marriage, strengthening educational intervention for women should be prioritized. Encouraging and supporting women to continue their education is an alternative to marriage. Also, mobilizing community awareness and engagement programs, which aim to address cultural and social norms by raising discussions among parents, religious and community members, including men, highlights the value of educating girls about rights and the risks of child marriage. Digital platforms and media campaigns could be used effectively to convey messages to educate young people on sexual and reproductive health.

Because there is a wide variation in the

number of child marriages, strengthening intervention programs, focusing on rural areas, and differentiating intervention between regions through the implementation and enforcement of national laws and also developing legal or policy intervention at the district or local level, which aim to create local regulation and policy environment that makes child marriage more challenging. In addition, empowerment initiatives should be developed to increase girls' opportunities and equip them with knowledge, support, and fundamental life skills education to become economically independent and engaged. Girls must receive comprehensive information regarding their rights, sexual and reproductive health, and the consequences of child marriage and learn to assert their interests. By implementing these strategies, child marriage practice may be reduced more sustainably. The path to achieving eight of the other SDGs by the year 2030, including those related to poverty, food security, health, education, gender equality, economic growth, peace, and justice, may be cleared (Girls Not Brides, 2020).

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