



## Sociodemographic Factors and Adolescent Attitudes Towards Family Planning Programs Related to Adolescent Marriage in Bali Province

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### Abstract

Adolescent marriages in Bali Province are reported to be increasing. Sociodemographic factors and adolescents' attitudes toward family planning programs are suspected to be related to adolescent marriage. Therefore, this study aims to analyze the relationship between demographic factors of adolescents' attitudes toward family planning programs and the ideal age of marriage for adolescents. This study uses secondary data from the Program Performance and Accountability Survey of the National Population and Family Planning Agency of Bali Province in 2019. Cross-sectional studies were conducted among adolescents aged 10-24 years. The probability of selecting 668 adolescents for this study was determined using the proportional-to-size method. An adolescent's marriage is determined based on the adolescent's perceptions of the age of marriage before 21 years. Logistic regression tests were conducted to determine the relationship between access to information and the perception of marriage among adolescents. It was found that 87.9% of the adolescents perceive the age of marriage for women as  $\geq 21$  years. Based on the results of the multivariate analysis, gender, rural residence, and access to information on family planning programs, adolescents' attitudes toward FPPs and attitudes toward marriage before 21 years of age were associated with adolescents' marriage. Factor demographic factors and adolescent attitudes increased the perception of the ideal age for marriage among adolescents. This finding suggests that demographic factors should be considered to increase the ideal age for adolescent marriage to further prevent the incidence of health and social problems resulting from child marriages

### Introduction

Marriage during adolescence adversely affects the individual and their social life (Urquia *et al.*, 2022). Adolescent marriages force teenagers, especially girls, to stop attending school (Fan & Koski, 2022). Furthermore, terminating school opportunities for adolescent girls can hinder their development and impede gender equality (Parsons & McCleary-Sills, 2014). Low educational levels also impoverish married adolescents (Sagalova *et al.*, 2021). Additionally, marrying at a young age allows for

a large number of children, increases the risk of domestic violence incidents, and tends to result in poor mental health status (Aggarwal *et al.*, 2023; Belachew *et al.*, 2022; Yoosefi Lebni *et al.*, 2023). Early marriage refers to one conducted under the age of 18 (Elnakib *et al.*, 2022). To date, the incidence of teenagers marrying at an early age has remained high. Globally, 115 million teenage boys are married. Of these, one in five teenagers, or as many as 23 million, got married before the age of 15 years old (UNICEF, 2019, 2023). High rates of child marriages have

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also been reported among teenagers in South Asia. Approximately 45% of approximately 290 million Syrian refugee children in southern Lebanon are married and under 18 years old (UNICEF, 2023). Marriages have even been conducted among 10-year-old children, with girls accounting for 32.56% (Elnakib *et al.*, 2022).

The rate of child marriages in Indonesia is still high. Accordingly, it is feared that the country will not be able to achieve its sustainable development target by 2023 (Unicef Indonesia, 2020). Early marriages in Indonesia are ranked 37th globally and second in Asia after Cambodia (UNICEF, 2023). In 2010, the proportions of marriages among 10-14- and 15-19-year-olds in Indonesia were 4.8% and 41.9% respectively. Meanwhile, NBHR data in 2013 showed that the proportions of first-time married adolescents aged less than 15 years and those aged 15-19 years were 2.6% and 23.9% respectively (Kementerian Kesehatan RI, 2018). Data from the 2017 Indonesian Demographic and Health Survey showed that the child marriage rate decreased slightly to 11.2% in 2018 and continued declining to 10.4% and 9.2% in 2020. However, the number of child marriages remained below the target number. The number of child marriages is targeted to be less than 8.7% in 2024 and 6.9% in 2030 (Kementrian Kesehatan RI, 2018).

Based on the concept of behavior, early marriage is influenced by several factors. Planned behavior theory by Fishbein and Ajzen (1975) describes behavior controlled by intention. The intention effect of attitude, individual subjective norms, perceptions of how other people perceive behavior, and perceptions of behavioral control. Attitude follows attitudes toward behavior. Additionally, behavior is implemented if other people accept it as a normative belief. Furthermore, one cannot entirely control the behavior under the control of that individual. Internal and external factors influence behavioral control. Internal factors such as skills, will, and information, among others, come from within. In contrast, external factors originate from the environment. Environmental factors include sociodemographic environments, such as rural or urban areas (Anggreni *et al.*, 2023).

Various studies on the factors related to teen marriages show mixed results. One study found that adolescent marriage rates are associated with being rural residents, being uneducated, attending only primary school, having parents decide when to marry, being poor, and having the poorest wealth status (Aychiluhm *et al.*, 2021). Another study conducted at the Indonesian Tertiary Center found a link between living in rural areas, low-income families, low educational levels, and early marriage (Indarti *et al.*, 2020). Moreover, different results were found among adolescents in Injibara, Ethiopia, where a factor associated with adolescent marriage was a low level of non-formal education among adolescent fathers (Paige D Martin, 2003). Based on the results of the literature review, it was found that, in addition to social demographic factors, there are other influencing factors such as ethnicity, religion, and mass media exposure (Anggreni *et al.*, 2023).

Socialization efforts regarding the ideal age for marriage have been made; however, the results have not been optimal. The Indonesian Government created the Marital Age Maturity Program (MAMP) via the National Population and Family Planning Board (NPFPPB). The MAMP was an attempt to increase the age limit for first marriage to reach the minimum age of marriage, which was 21 years for women and 25 years for men (Direktorat Bina Remaja Badan Kependudukan dan Keluarga Berencana Nasional., 2019). Since the program was run down, the number of adolescent girl marriages seems to decrease gradually. The National Census Survey in 2018 reported that one in nine (11.1%) adolescent girls were married, and approximately 1.220.900 women aged 20-24 years got married before 18. Most adolescents (83%) know about MAMP within a suitable category (Rulistyana, 2017). Meanwhile, 60.7% of teenagers in the Loksado subdistrict of South Hulu Sungai Regency, South Kalimantan, Indonesia, have a positive attitude toward child marriages (Husna *et al.*, 2017). This situation was worrying enough to achieve the failure of child marriages targeted by 2024 and 2030 (Unicef Indonesia, 2020).

Teenagers' perceptions of the ideal age for marriage still vary. Most adolescents believe the

ideal age for marriage is 19-24 and 25-30 years for women and men, respectively (Subranmiam *et al.*, 2015). Some teenagers agree to marry at the age of 16 (Kohno *et al.*, 2020). However, on average, they marry at an age younger than the perceived ideal age for marriage (Mardi *et al.*, 2018). Based on the results, these factors were found to be related to the perception of the ideal age for marriage among adolescents. Physical and mental maturity, social norms, insecurity, family honor, preference for young brides, and leniency in enforcing the minimum age for marriage were found to influence perceptions (Islam *et al.*, 2021). Other related factors include lack of awareness, absence of marriage certificate requirements, social norms, and lack of marriage registration (Kumari *et al.*, 2022). Child marriages in Indonesia are related to the educational background and income of the relevant head of the family (Rhena, 2020). Accordingly, economic factors negatively affect early marriage among adolescents in Bangladesh and Ghana (Saleheen *et al.*, 2021).

The relationship between demographic factors and the perception of the ideal age for adolescent marriage remains limited. One of the existing studies conducted in Bangladesh, Ghana, and Iraq evaluated sociodemographic factors using secondary data from 2017 through 2019 (Kumari *et al.*, 2022). Another study was conducted using the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System to identify adults > 18 years old living in rural and urban areas in the U.S. from 2018 through 2019 (Kyalwazi *et al.*, 2022). The NPFPPB conducted Program Performance and Accountability Surveys (PPAS) in 2019 to photograph program achievements listed in the 2015-2019 National Medium-Term Program Plan, and was designed to produce estimates of national- and provincial-level parameters, including Bali Province. Perceptions of early marriage were among the parameters evaluated in this survey. To the best of our knowledge, publications related to the relationship between demographic factors and adolescents' perceptions of the ideal age for marriage in Bali Province using PPAS data from 2019 have not been conducted. Therefore, this study aims to identify the role of demographic factors in enhancing the perception of the ideal age for marriage among adolescents in Bali Province

using PPAS data.

## Method

This study uses secondary data on the PPAS from the NPFPPB Bali Province in 2019. Cross-sectional studies were conducted among adolescents aged 10-24 years from 34 Indonesian provinces. The probability of selecting adolescents in this study was proportional to the size (PPS) method. The number of successfully interviewed teenagers was 41,582, including 22,124 boys and 19,458 girls. A total of 668 unmarried adolescents in Bali Province aged 10-24 years were sampled. The timing of data collection varied between the provinces, from June 10 to September 10, 2019. Structured interviews were conducted to collect data. The collected data included adolescents' characteristics, perceptions of the ideal age for marriage, knowledge about family planning programs (FPPs), sources of population information, and attitudes toward FPPs and marriage before 21 years.

Data were analyzed using univariate, bivariate, and multivariate analyses. The data analyzed in this study were based on the characteristics, knowledge, attitudes toward FPPs, and perceptions of the ideal age for marriage for adolescent girls. Characteristics included age, education level, sex, and residential region. Data related to adolescent knowledge consisted of a knowledge index on population issues, adolescent reproductive health (ARH), effects of early marriage, FPPs, information sources on reproductive health, and exposure to information from youth generation programs (YGP). Data on age are categorized into "10-14 years old", "15-19 years old", and "20-24 years old". "Sex" includes "male" and "female". Education level is categorized into "without education", "Primary school", "Junior High School", "Senior High School", and "College". In comparison, residential areas are categorized into "urban" and "rural". The perception of the ideal age for marriage is categorized into a marriage age < 21 years and a marriage age ≥ 21 years. Attitudes are categorized into "positive", "neutral", and "negative". Knowledge is categorized into "good", "sufficient", "lacking", "knowing", "not knowing", or "ever hearing/seeing/reading information", and "never hearing/seeing/

reading information”. A univariate analysis was conducted to obtain an overview of the frequency distribution of the ideal marriage age for adolescent attitudes toward FPPs. A bivariate analysis was conducted using the chi-square test to obtain trends in adolescents’ ideal age for marriage based on their characteristics, knowledge, and attitudes. A multivariate logistic regression analysis was conducted to determine the factors associated with marital age among adolescents.

### Results and Discussion

Bali Province is one of the provinces in Indonesia with an area of 5,590.15 km<sup>2</sup>. The administrative structure of Bali Province consists of 9 districts and 1 city (Badan Pusat Statistik Provinsi Bali, 2025). Culturally, Balinese people mostly embrace Hinduism and adhere to the patrilineal system. The rights and position

of men are valued higher than the position of women in the patrilineal system (Fahrurrozhi & Kurnia, 2024). The people of the island of Bali consist of 2 main groups, namely Bali Aga and Bali Majapahit, or modern Bali. The Bali Aga are a group native to the island of Bali who tend to maintain their traditions and customs from generation to generation. This group tends to be more closed to outside cultures and settles in mountainous areas. Meanwhile, the Balinese Majapahit or Modern Balinese group is more open to outside civilization and lives in urban areas. The culture of freedom is a Western culture brought by tourists to the island of Bali and has created cultural dynamics that affect the behavior of the community, including teenagers in Bali (Fahrurrozhi & Kurnia, 2024). Table 1 shows that most adolescents were aged 10-14 years (44.8%), male (54.4%), with a high school education level (34.0%), and living in Urban Areas (63.9%).

TABLE 1. Respondent Characteristics

Demography Characteristic (n=668)		Frequency	%
Age (years)	10-14	300	44.8
	15-19	254	38.0
	20-24	115	17.2
Sex	Male	364	54.4
	Female	305	45.6
Education level	Without education	3	0.5
	Primary school	173	25.9
	Junior high school	184	27.5
	Senior high school	227	34.0
	College	81	12.1
Living area	Urban	427	63.9
	Rural	242	36.1

Source: PPAS from the NFPB Bali Province in 2019

TABLE 2. Frequency Distribution of Perception, Attitude, Knowledge Level, And Programmatic Factors of Adolescents About The Ideal Age for Marriage

Variable		Frequency	%
Marriage age for women (n= 588)	< 21 years old	80	12.0
	≥ 21 years old	507	87.9
Attitude toward FPPs	Positive	215	32.2
	Neutral	228	34.0
	Negative	226	33.7

Attitude toward marriage before 21 years of age	Positive	503	75.3
	Neutral	122	18.2
	Negative	44	6.5
Knowledge of family planning	Less	81	12.2
	sufficient	309	46.2
	Good	279	41.7
Knowledge about the consequences of child marriage	Yes	406	60.7
	No	263	39.3
Knowledge of modern family planning methods	Good	8	1.1
	sufficient	164	24.6
	Less	497	74.3
Exposure to information on YGP	Yes	128	19.2
	No	540	80.8
Exposure to information on CIC for adolescence	Ever	95	14.2
	Never	573	85.8
Knowledge about information related to adolescents' reproductive health	Ever	635	94.9
	Never	34	5.1
Knowledge about information related to the youth generation	Ever	128	19.2
	Never	540	80.8
Media Source of YGP (n=128)	At least one of the media sources	116	90.6
	None of the media sources	12	9.4
Information source from a staff of YGP (n=128)	At least one of the staff	116	90.6
	No one staff	12	9.4

Source: PPAS from the NPPFB Bali Province in 2019

Table 2. shows that most teenagers' perception of the ideal marriage age, especially for adolescent girls, is greater than or equal to 21 years (87.9%), with a positive attitude toward marriage before 21 years of age (75.3%), knowing the consequences of early marriage (60.7%), with low-level knowledge of modern family planning devices (74.3%), and without exposure to YGP (80.8%) dan Center of Information and Counseling (CIC) for adolescents (85.8%).

Table 3 shows that there are significant proportion differences in the ideal age for marriage for women based on age, education level, residential area, attitude toward marriage age before 21 years old, and attitude toward FPPs ( $p < 0.05$ )

Table 4 shows the result of a logistic regression test, which found that the factors

related to adolescents' perceptions of the ideal age for marriage include gender (AOR=1.757; CI= 1.053-2.932;  $p=0.031$ ); residential area (AOR=0.578; CI=0.350-0.955;  $p=0.032$ ); having heard, seen, or read information about YGP (AOR=0.471; CI= 0.257 - 0.864;  $p= 0.015$ ); adolescents' attitude toward FPPs (AOR=1.449, CI= 1.067-1.967;  $p=0.018$ ); and attitude toward marriage before 21 years of age (AOR=0.432; CI=0.298-0.628;  $p=0.000$ ).

This study shows that sex was associated with the age of marriage for teenagers. Adolescent girls were 1.7 times more likely to perceive the ideal age for marriage as  $\geq 21$  years compared with adolescent boys. Meanwhile, based on the bivariate analysis, the differences in the proportion of perception of the ideal age for marriage between ages  $\geq 21$  years old between adolescent girls and boys are 83.7%



TABLE 3. Cross Tabulation Among Characteristics, Knowledge Level, and Attitude of Adolescents

Variable	The Ideal Age for Marriage for Women				x	p
	< 21 years		≥ 21 years			
	f	%	f	%		
Age (years)					7.713	0.021
10-14	42	18.4	186	81.6		
15-19	28	11.3	220	88.7		
20-24	10	8.9	102	91.1		
Sex					4.115	0.053
Male	51	16.3	262	83.7		
Female	21	6.2	246	93.8		
Education level					9.697	0.046
Without education	0	0	3	100		
Primary school	25	20.2	99	79.8		
Junior high school	26	19.4	134	80.6		
Senior high school	24	10.8	198	89.2		
College	6	0.7	74	99.3		
Living area (n=588)					6.084	0.018
Urban	40	10.9	327	89.1		
Rural	40	18.1	181	81.9		
Knowledge about the effects of early marriage					0.112	0.799
Yes	56	12.4	397	87.6		
No	25	11.6	191	88.4		
Knowledge about the possibility of getting pregnant after engaging in sexual intercourse only once					2.082	0.353
Can be pregnant	46	15.4	252	84.6		
Cannot be pregnant	14	10.2	122	89.8		
Knowledge about ARH						0.447
Yes	80	13.8	496	86.2		
No	1	50.0	1	50.0		
Knowledge about YGP					1.321	0.244
Yes	21	16.9	103	83.1		
No	60	12.9	404	87.1		
Attitude toward marriage before 21 years of age					29.559	0.000
Positive	55	11.8	411	88.2		
Neutral	11	12.3	78	87.7		
Negative	15	45.0	18	54.6		
Media Source of ARH					0.002	0.965

At least from one media source	78	13.9	484	86.1		
None	2	14.3	12	85.7		
Information source from ARH staff					0.864	0.369
At least one staff	74	13.5	476	86.5		
No staff	5	20.0	20	80.0		
Media Source of YGP					0.614	0.426
At least from one media source	18	16.1	94	83.9		
None	3	25.0	9	75.0		
Attitude toward FPPs					7.838	0.020
Positive	38	16.1	199	83.9		
Neutral	18	8.7	188	91.2		
Negative	25	22.1	201	77.9		
Exposure to CIC for adolescence					0.118	0.744
Yes	14	14.9	80	85.1		
No	67	13.6	427	86.4		
Knowledge about modern family planning methods					1.253	0.534
Good	2	25.0	6	75.0		
Sufficient	24	14.8	138	85.2		
Insufficient	54	0.2	364	99.8		
Knowledge about family planning					0.025	0.903
Yes	49	13.9	302	86.1		
No	32	13.5	205	86.5		

Source: PPAS from the NPPFB Bali Province in 2019

TABLE 4. Factors Related to Adolescents' Perception of The Ideal Marriage Age

Variable	AOR	Confidence Interval		p
		Lower	Upper	
Age	1.303	0.794	2.140	0.295
Education level	1.365	0.940	1.982	0.102
Sex	1.757	1.053	2.932	0.031
Living area	0.578	0.350	0.955	0.032
Have you heard, seen, or read information about YGP?	0.471	0.257	0.864	0.015
Attitude toward FPPs	1.449	1.067	1.967	0.018
Attitude toward being married before 21 years of age	0.432	0.298	0.628	0.000

Source: PPAS from the NPPFB Bali Province in 2019

\*Variables that do not meet p value < 0.25 are not continued for the next multiple regression model

and 93.8%, respectively, with  $p$ -value = 0.053. These results are consistent with those of a study conducted on adolescents in Kozovar, which found that adolescents' perceptions of marriage were associated with their gender, age, level of parental education, number of siblings, education level, and financial income (Hyseni *et al.*, 2020). Adolescent girls often experience reproductive health problems; therefore, women seek more information regarding disease prevention and treatment. Compared with boys, adolescent girls were reported to be three times more likely to undergo early marriage. Most sexual relations occur during marriage among adolescent girls and outside marriage among adolescent boys (Singh *et al.*, 2023). Based on this, socialization about the ideal age for marriage for adolescent boys needs to be considered, considering that adolescent boys also play a role in early marriage.

The residential area was also associated with the age for marriage among adolescents (AOR=0.578; CI=0.350-0.955;  $p$ =0.032). The proportion of women who were married before 20 years was significantly higher in rural than in urban areas, at 45.5% and 27.8%, respectively (Talukder *et al.*, 2020). A factor known to be associated with early marriage is the low educational level of young women and their parents. The same research in Amhara regional state results were noted among adolescents living in the village as a predictor factor for early marriage (AOR = 4.33; 95% CI=2.17, 8.64) (Aychiluhm *et al.*, 2021; Radwan *et al.*, 2021). This is made possible by the taboo culture embraced by teenagers. Although it still requires confirmation, education levels are not linear with a taboo culture in adolescents. The influence of taboo culture will limit them from talking about intimate or inappropriate issues related to reproductive health, such as sex issues, sex education, and contraception (Lindawati *et al.*, 2022).

Moreover, teenagers living in urban areas generally have easy access to information and education, allowing them to better understand the adverse effects of marriage during adolescence. In this study, 19.2% had heard information about YGP. Women exposed to good information tend not to marry at an early age compared with those not exposed to media

(Abera *et al.*, 2020; Aychiluhm *et al.*, 2021). Women with low education levels or those who did not finish primary school were more likely to marry in adolescence than women in high school (Berliana *et al.*, 2021). In this study, the proportion of adolescents with a higher level of education was lower than that with secondary education. Most adolescents had a high school education level (34.0 %); only a small percentage had a higher education level (12.1 %), and only a small percentage did not attend school (0.5 %). However, the parents' educational levels were not evaluated in this study.

Adolescent attitudes toward FPP were significantly associated with the age to marry in adolescence. Adolescents' positive attitudes towards FPP were 1.4 times more likely to marry at the age of  $\geq 21$  compared to adolescents with negative attitudes. These results are consistent with the attitude of adolescents in Loksado District. Most teenagers in the Loksado District are optimistic about early marriage. Positive attitudes toward early marriage are more common among adolescent boys and those with a high school education (Husna *et al.*, 2017). Only about one-third of U.S. teens express a positive attitude toward premarital sex, and the majority indicate that they will have sex before marriage. Adolescents' attitudes towards FPP may be related to cultural factors. In addition, some cultures consider the use of contraception to be contrary to religious values (Najib *et al.*, 2020). In general, marriage is a stage in the life cycle. Until now, customary law has not set an ideal age for marriage. A limitation that is often used in a woman's eligibility to marry is the menstrual cycle. Marriage is allowed if a woman has experienced menstruation, which indicates that the woman's uterus is ready to get pregnant (Mahendra *et al.*, 2019). Cultural factors are also a reason for parents to marry their daughters before the age of 20 to avoid the stigma of "old virgins". In addition, parents will feel proud if their child is married.

Decision-making about the ideal marriage age on the island of Bali is also inseparable from cultural factors. The people of the island of Bali consist of 2 main groups, namely Bali Aga and Bali Majapahita, or modern Bali. The Bali Aga are a group native to the island of Bali who tend to maintain their



traditions and customs from generation to generation. This group tends to be more closed to outside cultures and settles in mountainous areas. Meanwhile, the Balinese Majapahit group is more open to outside civilization and lives in urban areas. The culture of freedom is a Western culture brought by tourists to the island of Bali has created a cultural dynamic (Fahrurrozhi & Kurnia, 2024).

Cultural factors may also influence adolescents' attitudes about the age of marriage (Saudah *et al.*, 2023). In this study, it was found that most adolescents (87.9%) consider the ideal age to marry to be  $\geq 21$  years for women. This figure is higher than the proportion of positive attitudes of adolescents about the ideal age of marriage from other studies, which ranges from 35-77% (Taufik *et al.*, 2018). Adolescents' perceptions of the ideal age for marriage are also reported to vary across countries, namely 14 years old in rural Niger (Tomar *et al.*, 2021), < 18 years old in Mozambique and Ethiopia (Jones *et al.*, 2020; Packer *et al.*, 2020), and age 23 in Bhutan (UNICEF & UNFPA, 2019). In addition, a lack of knowledge about reproductive health has led to increasing teenage marriage (Rizqi *et al.*, 2022). Adolescents are exposed to information about YGP related to the ideal age for marriage. In this study, 19.2% had heard information about YGP. Based on the bivariate analysis, there was no significant difference in the proportion of good perceptions about the ideal age for marriage among adolescents who had exposure (83.1%) and never had exposure to information regarding YGP (87.1%), with a  $p$ -value = 0.244. This assessment is also inseparable from limitations related to the use of secondary data; therefore, it has limitations in analysing variables related to perception. The analysed variables were adjusted for the availability of data. The possibility of bias in the data collection is also attributed to the use of secondary data. The data collection method used in this study follows the data collection method of the owner of NPFPA Bali Province.

## Conclusion

Sociodemographic factors, such as gender, place of residence, having heard/seen/read information related to gender, and adolescents' attitudes towards family planning

programs related to teen marriage. This research contributes to an increasing understanding of the role of sociodemographic factors and adolescent attitudes toward adolescent marriage. Based on this, it is recommended to expand the reach of education about reproductive health in rural areas and involve adolescent boys and girls.

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