

## Reinforcement of Female Students at Islamic Boarding School in Preventing Early Marriage Behavior

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ARTICLE INFO	ABSTRACT
<p><b>Article history:</b> <b>RECEIVED</b> 16 October 2024 <b>ACCEPTED</b> 21 October 2024 <b>PUBLISHED</b> 25 October 2024</p> <p><b>Keywords:</b></p> <p>Early marriage; Marriage behavior</p>	<p>Early marriage remains a significant problem in Indonesia. In Southeast Asia, Indonesia ranks second after Cambodia in cases of early marriage. East Java has the highest incidence of early marriage in the Java-Bali region. This situation forms the background for implementing the community service program. The purpose of this community service is to raise awareness and reinforce understanding of the risks associated with early marriage or child marriage, especially for female students in Islamic boarding schools. The lack of quality education, both general and religious, often leads to the misinterpretation of religious doctrines, which can harm women and children. This often affects female students in Islamic boarding schools, many of whom come from rural areas. According to Law No. 1 of 1974 concerning marriage, the legal age for marriage is 19 years. However, due to socio-economic and educational factors, parents often resort to early marriage as a means to alleviate poverty for their children. This service is implemented by measuring participants' knowledge and understanding before and after the counseling sessions.</p>

### 1. Introduction

National and international communities increasingly recognize early marriage as a serious problem in developing countries. Early marriage is not only a violation of human rights but also an obstacle to national development (Lee-Rife et al. 2012). The case of early marriage is still an unfinished homework. Although data from Unicef Indonesia (2020) shows a slow decline in early marriage from year to year, the number is still relatively static. Throughout 2019 to 2020, there has indeed been a decline of 0.6%, but it is still far from the target of a decline of 8.74% in 2024 (Badan Pusat Statistik, 2023a). Early marriage can have serious and lasting negative effects. When a teenage girl becomes pregnant, this can have a significant impact on her education, health (due to

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complications from childbirth), and employment opportunities, which affects her life and income in the future (Diabelková et al. 2023). Early marriage or child marriage is a marriage that is carried out formally or informally where one or both parties are under 18 years of age. by 2030 to achieve SDG 5 Target, and nearly 650 million girls and women alive today have been affected by child marriage practices. If the rate of child marriage of girls remains unchanged, 12 million girls under the age of 18 will continue to marry each year, in contrast to the prevalence of early marriage among boys, which is estimated to be one-fifth the rate of girls (UNICEF, 2018).

In East Java Based on records from the East Java High Religious Court, Malang Regency recorded 1,711 marriage dispensation cases, ranking first in East Java. Based on the submission of marriage dispensation reported to the East Java Religious Court throughout 2022 as in the table below, Malang Regency is in first place, namely 1,455 submissions, Second Jember Regency is 1,395 submissions, third Probolinggo Regency (Kraksaan) is 1,152 submissions, fourth Banyuwangi is 877 submissions, and fifth is Lumajang is 856 submissions (Badan Pusat Statistik, 2023b).

The driving factors for early marriage are also caused by the low level of education and knowledge of parents and children about the importance of education. Parents and adolescents have limited understanding of reproductive health. The occurrence of early marriage is also caused by limited knowledge of parents and adolescents regarding the impact of early marriage on reproductive health (Harahap et al. 2018). The phenomenon of minimal quality of marriage education, both general and religious, results in misinterpretation of a religious doctrine, which causes harm to others, especially women and children. This misunderstanding in terms of interpreting religious doctrine often affects female students in Islamic boarding schools, many of whom live in rural areas. In fact, the Marriage Law states that men and women are only allowed to marry at the age of 19 (nineteen years). This community service aims to raise awareness and strengthen understanding of the dangers associated with early or child marriage, particularly among female students in Islamic boarding schools.

## **2. Methods**

Community service was carried out at the Nurul Furqon Malang Tahfidzul Quran Islamic Boarding School which took place in July-August 2023. The form of activity in this service we use the counseling and evaluation method for female students aged 16-18 years. Counseling is carried out with presentations on early marriage including: influencing factors, impacts and risks, and how to handle them,

The strategy carried out to achieve the expected conditions by using the Health Belief Model in the education process given to female students where a person's belief in the threat of a disease, perceptions of benefits, and obstacles related to health behavior will predict the likelihood of an individual adopting the health behavior or not.

The form of community service activities at the Tahfidzul Quran Islamic Boarding School in Malang City is in the form of providing education to residents through counseling. The sequence of this series of activities is as following Table 1.

No.	Activity
1	Survey of adolescent problems and what is becoming a global problem in East Java
2	Coordination with the Islamic boarding school coordinator in this case at the PPTQ Nurul Furqon girls' boarding school
3	Coordination with the team for community service activity planning
4	Survey of event venue and preparation of facilities and infrastructure for activities
5	Pre-test
6	Education about early marriage
7	Post test

**Table 1.** Activity schedule

### 3. Result and discussion

The results of the implementation of this community service can evaluate the level of knowledge of female students aged 16-17 years at the Nurul Furqon Tahfidzul Quran Islamic Boarding School in Malang City totaling 25 female students before and after counseling on early marriage. The form of activity of this community service is strengthening female students with awareness and perception of early marriage with all its impacts and risks, in addition to providing discourse and socialization of marriage laws. The following are the results of activities from community service:

### 4. Characteristics of the participants

The characteristics of the participants who are female students in grades XI and XII of Madrasah Aliyah (Senior High School) with a total of 25 female students are as following Table

No	Age	Total	Percentage
1	16 years	11	44%
2	17 years	14	56%
Total		25	100%

**Table 2.** Characteristics of the participants based on age (should be placed after the paragraph of the discussion)

Based on Table 2, it was found that most of the community service participants were 17 years old, namely 56%. While the others were 16 years old. Based on Table 3, it can be seen that most of the participants came from rural areas, both in the Malang Raya area and outside Malang Raya.

No	Living area	Total	Percentage
1	Village area	18	72%
2	City area	7	28%
Total		25	100%

**Table 3.** Characteristics of the participants based on Residence – suggest to place in next page so that the table is in one single page.

## 5. Implementation of activities

The implementation of this activity began with a survey of adolescent problems, one of which is a problem in Malang, early marriage. The determination of Islamic boarding schools was not without reason, such as the background to this activity is that the female students are the target because they are vulnerable to early marriage practices. Therefore, this activity was carried out at the Islamic Boarding School, namely PP Tahfidzul Quran Nurul Furqon. This activity began with attendance, then a pre-test, delivery of material and finally a post-test. (Figure 1)

**Figure 1.** Providing education and knowledge sharing on early marriage (should be aligned at the centre)



The enthusiasm of the community service participants was very good. They all followed the series of events from beginning to end. During the education session, education was carried out using a power point displayed on the LCD screen by adding question and answer interactions according to the participants' perceptions. The materials provided were as follows:

1. Definition of Early Marriage
2. Marriage Law
3. Factors influencing early marriage
4. Impact of early marriage
5. Prevention of early marriage
6. Strategies carried out as good students or teenagers
7. Strengthening the perception and trust of teenagers

In the middle of the material delivery, Ice Breaking was carried out by the Community Service team, this was done to prevent boredom and not focusing on what had been conveyed. The following is when ice breaking was carried out: (Figure 2)

**Figure 2.** Providing ice-breaking session among students (should be aligned at the centre)

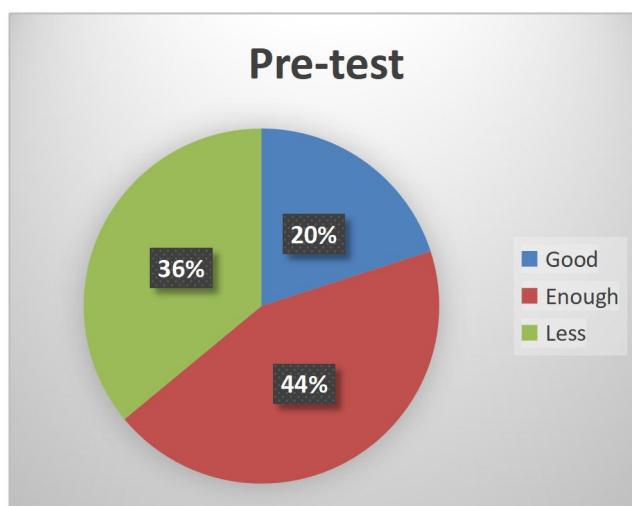


## 6. Evaluation

To evaluate the level of respondents' knowledge of early marriage, it can be seen from the pre-test and post-test scores of the participants. Measuring the level of knowledge of community service participants is done by giving a questionnaire. The following are the results of the pre-test and post-test of the participants. (Figure 3)

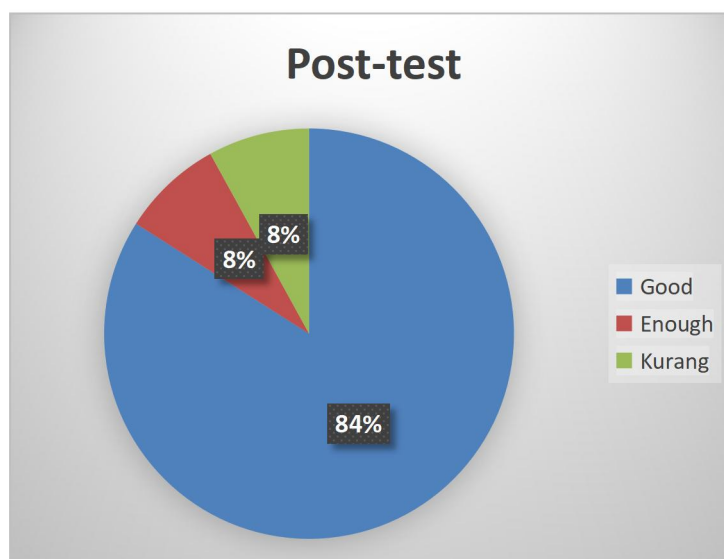
**Figure 3.** Results of knowledge level before the education was provided (should be aligned at the centre)

**Figure 3.** Results of knowledge level before the education was provided (should be aligned at the centre)



Based on the diagram above, it was found that participants with sufficient knowledge were 44% or 11 participants, while those with good knowledge were 20% or 5 people. (Figure 4)

**Figure 4.** Results of knowledge level after the education was provided



Based on the diagram above, it was obtained after providing education, participants with good knowledge were 84% or 21 participants, while those with poor knowledge were 8% or 2

people. Based on the results above in Figures 3 and 4, it can be concluded that community service activities can increase knowledge about early marriage while providing reinforcement of understanding that early marriage must be avoided by implementing good strategies, as well as continuing education or working and continuing duties as good teenagers.

Furthermore, the evaluation demonstrated that the participants not only retained the information provided but also displayed a marked shift in attitude towards early marriage. Many participants expressed a newfound understanding of the legal ramifications and socio-economic implications tied to early marriage (Yoosefi Lebni et al. 2023). This knowledge equips them to make informed decisions and advocate against early marriage within their communities (Pourtaheri et al. 2024).

The results affirm that community service activities can significantly increase knowledge about early marriage, reinforcing the understanding that early marriage must be avoided. The participants emerged with practical strategies for navigating societal pressures and the importance of prioritizing education and personal development as good teenagers. This project highlights the necessity of continued educational interventions in Islamic boarding schools to further reduce early marriage rates in the region.

## 7. Conclusions

Based on the results of the implementation of community service activities at the Nurul Furqon Tahfidzul Quran Islamic Boarding School with 25 participants, it can be concluded including:

Participants attended 100%, namely 25 people in community service activities. There was an increase in the knowledge of female students at the Nurul Furqon Malang Tahfidzul Quran Islamic Boarding School.

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