

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS' MARRIAGE (A CASE STUDY OF PROBLEMATICS OF COLLEGE STUDENTS WHO GET MARRIED DURING THEIR STUDY)

Sri Sofiana Amni¹ Suwarjo²

¹Guidance and Counseling Study Program, Yogyakarta State University
Email: sofianaamni@gmail.com

²Educational Psychology and Guidance, Yogyakarta State University
Email: suwarjo@uny.ac.id

Abstract

The aims of this research were (1) to get the information of underlying factors of college students' marriage during their studies, (2) to find out the exact problems of college students' marriage during their studies, and (3) to find out the ways to solve the problems of college students' marriage during their studies. This research was a qualitative research using a case study research design. The main units of analysis were three pairs of respondents and their parents and friends. The data were gained by means of observation, documentation, and interview. The validity of data was obtained through triangulation technique and triangulation source. Data analysis techniques were conducted by adopting interactive model Miles & Huberman. The results showed: (1) Underlying factors of marriage included a) internal factors such as love and knowledge of religion, b) external factors such as encouragement from parents, unwed pregnancy, economic factors, and social and cultural circumstances. (2) Problems faced by married college students during their study were. a) academic problems, that is often do not go to college, laziness and bad time management, b) non-academic problems such as their monotonous and selfish personality and polygamy case as well. (3) The solution of college students' marriage problems was time management, college leave, dialogue to solve the problems, consultation with religious figures and motivation.

Keywords: Marriage, Problems of College Students

Introduction

Early adulthood is the beginning of a new stage in life. This period indicates that the time has come to the individual to be able to both take part in the chosen aim of life and find his position in life. One of the goals of finding his position in life is to have intimate relationships, choose a mate and learn to live with a husband or wife.¹

Erikson said that this period becomes the time to begin to be self-sufficient. It is a period of college and is considered as a beginning to marry and begin work.² Thus, the initial adult phase experienced by students has the task of getting a job, choosing a life partner, starting a family life, having offspring, leading a household, and taking the responsibility. According to Sture (2013), characteristics of development in early adult as the report of *understanding human development* explains that adulthood is divided into different stages, each stage of development is characterized by the maturity at the stage of thinking and behaving.³ The first stage is a young adult with an age range 18-25 years old, mature adults between 25-55 years old, old adults between 55-75 years and the latter referred to as the age of elders between 75 to death. Therefore, the distinctive feature of young adulthood is the process of transfer of experience from home and the surrounding environment to a wider experience of college. This development is subsequently characterized by a sensitivity of social problems.

¹Ninawati, F.I., *Gambaran Kesejahteraan Psikologis Pada Dewasa Muda Ditinjau Dari Pola Attachment*. Jurnal Psikologi. Vol.3, No.1, 2005, hlm. 1.

²Alex Sobur, *Psikologi umum*. Bandung : Pustaka Setia, 2006, hlm. 137.

³J, Sture, *Moral development and ethical decision-making*. (diakses: http://gov.mb.ca/fs/pwd/pubs/js_manual/k_undestand_dev.pdf. 2013, p. 16.

In addition to physical development, adulthood is also characterized by socio-emotional development such as the development of personality (identity) and spiritual. A consensus shows that personal development in early adulthood began to be honed when entering the age of 18 to 25 years. A research by Alan Waterman (Santrock: 2014) explains that students who have entered the college and marriage relationships undergo a psychological change and are able to solve the problem. This change is due to the development of rationality combined with the novelty between home and college experience that causes them to integrate the various dimensions of their personality.

The development of personality for early adulthood (college student) can not be separated from the society as an influential factor. It means that the dominant personality gives a significant impact in providing value to individual and his point of view to the world. Therefore, everyone has at least one value that affect their perspective in seeing, understanding and treating others. Moreover, most people have some value and apply it in different contexts of their lives.⁴ Hence, in the process, college students learn about goodness and badness especially in the relation with the self as an individual. They also get it through social development in order to develop the relationship of closeness and evolve a sense of sharing experiences and empathy towards others. Izard (Sture, 2013) explains that emotional development plays a key role in the response system to individuals who have an adaptive role to equip individuals in acting appropriately.⁵

Methodology

This research is a qualitative research with case study research type. The main unit of analysis is the three pairs of respondents, parents and respondents' friends. Research data was obtained by using observation, documentation, and interview. The validity of data is obtained through technique triangulation and source triangulation. Data analysis technique is conducted by Miles & Huberman's interactive model.

Results

1. Underlying Factors of College Students' Marriage

Based on Motivation-Hygiene theory developed by Frederick Herzberg, the motivation is categorized into two, namely: (1). Internal motivation that comes to be various encouragement that comes from within an individual like marriage because it is motivated by a sense of love and understanding of religion owned by individuals. and (2). External motivation, considered as encouragement, comes from outside the individual self like parental support, unwed pregnancy, economic encouragement and socio-cultural conditions.

2. Problematic of married college Students during their study at Hamzanwadi Selong University

Based on interviews conducted with married college students of Hamzanwadi Selong University, the research found that married students not only had academic problems, but also found non-academic problems that influenced the lecture process. It came from the situation

⁴ J, Sture, *Moral development and ethical decision-making*.
(diakses:http://gov.mb.ca/fs/pwd/pubs/js_manual/k_undestand_dev.pdf. 2013, hlm: 99

⁵ Ibid, hlm. 102.

of households and other macro factors such as local communities and interventions from parents of both parties. The problematic was described as follows:

a. Academic Problematic of College Student

Academic problems became the obstacles or difficulties faced by college students in planning and maximizing their learning progress. The problems were divided into three terms, namely: skipping lectures frequently, being lazy and being bad in time-management.

b. Non-Academic Problematic

Non-academic problems also occurred related to life at home and concerned on the couple and daily life. The problems found in the respondents were divided into three types, namely: monotone factor, arrogance of each individual, and the case of polygamy.

3. Solution of Problematic Student of Hamzanwadi University Married at Lecture

As noted previously, the problematic faced by college students of Hamzanwadi University involved two things, namely academic problems and non academic problems (internal household). The solution made by students in solving academic problems and households such as: fixing the time-management, finding the solution through dialogue with spouses, consulting to religious leaders, and taking college leave.

Discussions

1. Underlying Factors Students Married at Lecture

a. Internal factors

1) Married because of love

From the results of interviews with the three respondents, the research found that the factor of love was dominant factor that affected a person to marry. Where love was used as a motivation to live life. Couples who got married at the college were mostly sophomore. Their reason of their marriage was predominantly love or deep affection of each other.

According to Maslow (Martin & Joomis, 2014), human's needs consisted of several stages. Each level of needs could be met if the previous level was relatively satisfied. It was compulsory--it meant that the needs of the lower level must be satisfied first before reaching the higher-level needs. Once the physiological needs were met, then the need for security arose afterward. The need for love and belonging (love and belongingness needs) was at the third level in Maslow's view. Lastly, the need for love became the dominant goal for every individual.⁶

2) Respondents' knowledge of religion

Having a religious education background through boarding school in East Lombok, their study of religious sciences had a good impact on their behaviors and mindset. Therefore, religion played an important role in the process of personality development. A person was presumed able to recognize the rules in behaving by means of the recognition of religion, which is in line with religious thought. Religion also played a role in forbidding every individual from negative actions and leading individuals to a better direction. Religious education was a process based on a goal, which will give the expected outcomes for each learner.

⁶ Martin, D. & Joomis, K., *Building teacher: a constructivist approach to introducing education*. Belmont, Wadsworth, 2014, hlm.72-75.

Yunus (2004) stated that one of the advantages of human beings as God's creature was granted the feeling and ability to understand and know God. In other words, humans are endowed with religious instincts. This religious nature is a disposition (basic ability) that contained the possibility or opportunity to develop. However, regarding the direction and quality, the development of their understanding thoroughly depended on the quality of education they get.⁷

It can be construed that religion prompts couples establish relationships to marriage. One of the most important lessons in Islam is marriage. It has specificity in the scriptures that consists of several direct commands of marriage. The meaning of marriage herein is channeling sexual instincts legally. Religious advice in marriage is aimed to emphasize the distinction between humans and animals. Accordingly, any negative consequences caused by improper sexual distribution can be avoided as early as possible. Religion also provides the motivation that with marriage and running a religious call, people will form an ideal household (*sakinah, mawaddah* and *warahmah*). It leads people to have purposeful family as well.

b. External motivation

1) Parental Support.

Basically, the blessing of parents is the first factor to achieve perfection in the household as advocated by religion. Based on the results of interviews, there was one respondent who did not get support from parents to get married because of their study. As a consequence, in the name of love, they got unwed pregnancy. Regarding this case, they did not get parental support of their marriage. Meanwhile, because of background and knowledge of religion, parents understand the need as a human who needs a biological relationship, thus suggesting informants to get married soon.

This is in accordance with Kuncoro's (2002) notion of parental support. He perceptibly assumes that someone who becomes part of a social network will get mutual support. Thus, parental support is a much-needed aspect when a college student wants to get married because it will have a good impact on their marriage. It means that without parental support the college students will find it difficult to live the role as both a housewife and a student.⁸

2) The existence of an MBA case (*Marriage By Accident*).

Unwed pregnancy mostly happened because of the age of adolescence, where in this period the sense of ego and curiosity was so high. Physiological needs are the most basic and most pressing needs of fulfillment because they are directly related to survival. Because it is the most urgent need, then the physiological needs will be precedence fulfillment by individuals. If these needs are not met or unsatisfied, then the individual will not be in a position to satisfy other needs. Everyone has different reasons for getting married. The ongoing marriage is motivated because marriage is a way to legitimize relationships and cover up disgrace.

3) Economic Aspect

The occurrence of marriage of college students can be caused due to economic conditions of family. Some people think that marriage can be motivated by the condition of

⁷ S., Yunus, *Psikologi perkembangan anak & remaja*. Bandung, Remaja Rosdakarya, 2004, hlm. 36.

⁸ Kuncoro., *Dukungan sosial pada lansia*, 2002, <http://www.e-psikologi.com/epsi/> artikel diakses 28 oktober 2017

poor families. Parents who marry off their children consider that their children's marriage will reduce their economic burden. It is based on perception that a husband will take responsibility to his woman after marriage. The parents even expect that their married children can support their financial issue. The results of previous observations and studies explain that background of weak economic conditions becomes factors of marriage, but actually there are cases of marriage due to economically capable families instead.

According to Dew (2012) one study revealed the relationship between low levels of economic pressure and the value of savings or family income was one of the causes of family problems. It could be because economy is a pillar that sustains life. Commonly, Economic problems can occur in every unit of society. In some cases, many families faced failure because of inappropriate attitude in facing it. Therefore, it can be assumed that family conflicts will change because they measure different aspects of marital quality.⁹

4) Socio-Cultural Conditions

Culture contains values implemented in all community joints. This value affects human behavior and actions both individually and in-group. Value, in other words, is a collection of all attitudes and feelings that are always expressed through human behavior in determining badness and goodness. Culture has become the norm and life guidelines of a community. This problem is resulted from point of views of traditional people. They still believe that marriage will accelerate the process of maturity and change the mindset of the spouse. The rural community in East Lombok presumes that a woman is considered ready to get married when she has turned 19 years old.

2. The Problematics of married college Students during their study at Hamzanwadi University

a. Academic Problematics

The academic problem is an obstacle experienced by married students especially when they are pregnant and give birth. Based on the results, two of three respondents explained that they were worried about something happening in pregnancy. Then, the respondents took a leave due to that reason. It means that they need to take time to adapt when becoming a mother who just gave birth. Consequently, this condition also causes a sense of laziness and a burden in the household, which also become an academic burden.

b. Non-Academic Problematics

Non-academic problems also occur in college students such as feeling saturated, still have a high ego, and the existence of polygamy cases. Every married couple, especially in couples that marry as teenagers, needs adjustment of marriage. In their teenage, emotions are still very unstable, so there needs to be mutual understanding between partners. Emotions affects the way people think in facing conflict. But when emotions have reached such a high intensity that human becomes difficult to think efficiently. For that reason, emotional intelligence takes a very important role to be able to think both carefully and objectively. Similar to marriage, emotional intelligence plays an important role in shaping the adjustment. The high selfishness of marriage at young age becomes one of the non-academic problems

⁹ Dew, J. P, *A financial issue, a relationship issue, or birth? examining the predictors of martial financial conflict*, Vol. 3, Issu 1, (2012) hlm. 44-45.

encountered by married students. It is supposedly useful when they are having trouble with a partner and nobody wants to budge then it will affect their mood to learn.

Walgito (2011) says that psychological factors are closely related to one's age factor. Where it is seen in terms of developmental psychology, with the increasing age of a person, is expected to be more mature again psychological condition. To survive the marriage, couple is expected to pay attention to its psychological aspects of the couple that have matured. One of the characteristics of a person's maturity can be seen from a psychological point of view. If someone has controlled his emotions, then one can think well and put the problem according to objective circumstances.¹⁰

The occurrence of polygamy in many cases will lead to an unsteady relationship and foundation in a family. The duties of each spouse to maintain the integrity of the household will become obstructed or even messy. The reality of polygamy will harm the family itself (child and wife). The duty of the wife who clean the house, prepare for the needs of the husband will feel heavy because of the burden of feelings of him. For children, the time to get affection from both parents, primary education will be divided with the second wife.

Basically, almost all religious lessons emphasize on the type of monogamy. However, there are certain religious lessons (read: Islam) that allow their people to do polygamy with certain conditions. Although polygamous marriages take religious lessons as a basis, many polygamous phenomena do not please their spouses, especially for wives because husbands do not apply justly or because polygamy is done confidentially so husbands continue to lie against their wives.¹¹

3. Solution of Student Problems of Hamzanwadi University Married At Lecture

a. Time management

Time management is a way that can be done to balance time for learning or work, fun or leisure, and resting effectively. Without realizing it, every time we actually have made some decisions related to time management. Based on three respondents who are able decide when to go to college, study at home, exercise, worship, visit the library, relax, discuss with friends, and shop. All of these decisions play an important role to regulate a good time management.

b. Leave

Students' leave is a condition where students can not attend academic activities either on-course or on-going semester based on the reasons that can be accounted for. These reasons may be considered to grant a college leave request such as health, financial problems, or other personal matters.

c. Through dialogue with spouse

Reluctance in making a dialogue is one of the problems experienced by many couples both newly married and long married. Non-current communication can erode the most stable relationship. Monotone is (burnout) as a state of physical exhaustion, emotional, and mental.

¹⁰ Bimo Walgito, *Bimbingan dan konseling perkawinan*. Yogyakarta: Andi offset: 2011, hlm. 22.

¹¹ V. Reyneta, Kebijakan poligami: "Kekerasan negara terhadap perempuan" daam *jurnal perempuan nomor 31 maret* , 2003. Hlm. 16.

The characteristics of individuals who experience monotonous situation are feelings of helplessness and hopelessness, dry feeling, negative self-concept and negative attitude.¹²

To overcome this, couples are supposed to make time to communicate with each other, even if only for a few minutes. Couples must also be careful in speaking emotionally; emotions will only interfere with the process of conversation and good relationship of the couple. If the couple is not able to say things to improve the situation, it is suggested to give each other time to calm down. It is important to understand the relationship in order to give satisfaction to the couple. But, in fact, the process of building a family, each partner comes from different characters, ethics and thoughts; then in building family they should avoid arguing and creating potential interference in the relationship.

d. Consulting to religious leaders

Religion takes a role in human life as a guide to its behavior in taking a decision. Based on the findings of the research, the household problem faced is mostly experienced in fostering the household. Households are regarded as a small kingdom where there is a king, namely husband and a wife as a queen and children as the people of the kingdom.

e. Motivation

Motivation is an influential factor that can trigger a sense of enthusiasm and is able to change the behavior of humans or individuals to lead to better things for themselves. Motivation has a particular role, in terms of growing passion, feeling happy and passionate in taking action. Motivation will lead a person to make changes, give direction in reaching what is desired, determine the attitude or behavior that will be done and get what is wanted.

At certain times, humans have many needs. Some needs may be physiologically biogenetic such as hunger, thirst, and sexiness. In addition, another need emerges from a psychological state such as the need for recognition, appreciation, or belonging. This need becomes a motive when aroused with sufficient levels and it is an urgent need to encourage a person to act.¹³

Women who get married in college, with a series of changes, has possibility to experience various disorders in the lecture. Motivation is used to pursue or complete studies as an incentive for someone to succeed with the standard of excellence. A woman who has the drive to complete a study (for married couples) will seek a situation where they can achieve personal responsibility. Then she applies it for finding solutions and challenges in order to solve problems and receive feedback as a responsibility for success.

Conclusions And Suggestions

Conclusions

Based on the results of research and discussion, the research draws conclusion as follows:

1. The underlying factor of students' marriage at Hamzanwadi Selong University are: students' decision to marry during the lecture is based on various things, namely factors that

¹² Suwarjo & Purnama. D.S., *Model bimbingan kompetensi pribadi sosial bagi siswa SMA yang mengalami kejenuhan belajar (burnout)*, Universitas Negeri Yogyakarta. Tidak diterbitkan, 2014, hlm. 12.

¹³ J Mills,, *Clarifications on trieb freud's theory of motivation reinstated. journal psychoanalytic psychology*, 2004, hlm. 673-677).

motivated by a sense of love that the individual's understanding of religion, support from people, the case of unwed pregnancy, economic, and socio-cultural conditions.

2. Problems of students who married at college at Hamzanwadi Selong University are: (a) academic problems such as students often skip the class, laziness factors, unable to manage the time. (b) Non-academic problems are problems related to family problems such as monotonous situation, imposing their own will and the existence of polygamy.
3. Solutions for problems occurred at Hamzanwadi Selong University: (a) Taking leave is a solution taken by students when experiencing academic problems such as frequently skip college due to pregnancy and childbirth. (b) Obtain motivation from those closest to their husbands and parents (c) rearrange a good time management for those who cannot manage the time well (d) Do dialogue with partner is one of the ways used by the three students when facing problems in the household such as monotonous circumstance and nobody wants to budge. (e) When facing the problem of polygamy students consult to religious leaders.

Suggestions

1. For students
 - a) Before deciding to marry while in college study, they should consider more carefully about the decision to be taken and ready to face all the problems and consequences that occur when deciding to get married.
 - b) Respondents should be more responsible for their roles and responsibilities as wives and as students. They should take responsibility and can run it properly as it should, consequently lectures and household life run in balance and achieve a better goal.
2. For parents
 - a) They should provide support to married students in order to always struggle in the role and responsibilities as a student as well as a wife in order to run its role well and balanced.
 - b) They should maintain good relationships by giving attention, support and good communications to the respondents (their children) to keep the spirit of the role and both can be balanced.
3. For Couples
They should motivate each other to solve internal problems of their family.
4. For readers and further researchers
For other researchers if you want to do research on students who married at college, you should be able to pay attention to other things such as background and reason students in deciding to marry as well as the readiness and consequences that must be accepted on the decision taken.

References

- Dew, J. P., (2012) A financial issue, a relationship issue, or birth? examining the predictors of marital financial conflict, Vol. 3, Issu 1.

- Kuncoro., (2002). Dukungan sosial pada lansia. <http://www.e-psikologi.com/epsi/> artikel diakses 28 oktober 2017
- Lasode, A. & Feyisola, M A., (2014). *Challenge faced by married university undergraduate female students in Ogun State*. Nigeria, Elsevier.
- Ninawati, F.I., (2005). Gambaran kesejahteraan psikologis pada dewasa muda ditinjau dari pola attachment. *Jurnal Psikologi*. Vol.3, No.1.
- Martin, D. & Joomis. K.,(2014). *Building teacher: a constructivist approach to introducing education*. Belmont, Wadsworth.
- Mills, J., (2004). *Clarifications on trieb freud's theory of motivation reinstated. journal psychoanalytic psychology*.
- Reyneta, V., (2003). Kebijakan poligami: "Kekerasan negara terhadap perempuan " daam *jurnal perempuan nomor 31 maret*.
- Sobur, A., (2006). *Psikologi umum*. Bandung : Pustaka Setia.
- Sture, J., (2013). Moral development and ethical decision-making. (diakses:http://gov.mb.ca/fs/pwd/pubs/js_manual/k_undestand_dev.pdf).
- Suwarjo & Purnama. D.S., (2014: 12). Model bimbingan kompetensi pribadi sosial bagi siswa SMA yang mengalami kejenuhan belajar (*burnout*). Universitas Negeri Yogyakarta. Tidak diterbitkan.
- Walgito, B., (2011) *Bimbingan dan konseling perkawinan*. Yogyakarta: Andi offset
- Yunus, S., (2004). Psikologi perkembangan anak & remaja. Bandung. Remaja Rosdakarya.