

The Effect of Interpersonal Communication on Marital Satisfaction among Wives Who Married Early in Mandangin Islands

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Abstract : According by UNICEF and BPS Indonesia the number of divorces increases along with the increasing number of early marriages in various regions of Indonesia especially in remote area. In this case women are more prone to experience the negative impact of early marriage. They were not ready to accept the new role in their marriage, so vulnerable to experience dissatisfaction in marriage life and often lead to divorce. Divorce is one of the phenomena that indicate marital dissatisfaction. Any research shows that main problem in couples who get married early was communication. Effective interpersonal communication contributes to constructive conflict resolution and a strong predictor of marital satisfaction. And the satisfaction of marriage decreases along with the younger age at marriage. This research aims to know whether there are influence of interpersonal communication to marital satisfaction among wives who married early. This type of research was quantitative explanatory survey research conducted on 56 respondents. Data technique sampling used non-probability sampling with snowballing technique. Data analysis using simple linear regression analysis technique. The result of analysis shows that there was significant effect of interpersonal communication on marital satisfaction among wives who married early. Subsequent research is expected to examine factors other than interpersonal communication that affect marital satisfaction among wives who married early, and use qualitative methods in order to get an in-depth result on the cultural context of research.

1 INTRODUCTION

Based on the report "Delayed Progress: Analysis of Childhood Marriage Data in Indonesia" that since 2010 the number of divorces in Indonesia has increased in line with the number of early marriages in Indonesia. Early marriage was seen as one of the main causes of continued increase in divorce rates on a national scale. Early marriage is conducted through civil, religious or customary law and with or without official registration or consent where either or both partners are children under the age of 18 (UNICEF & BPS, 2015). For couples who marry early many of the dynamics they go through because of various factors such as age that is not ideal for marriage, immature reproductive health, economic factors, and psychosocial (Fadlyana & Larasaty, 2009). Couples who marry at early age often do not know the rights and duties of husband and wife well, causing conflict. In addition, the immature age and minimum knowledge of marital life make couples have not been able to resolve the conflict faced well. So early

marriage certainly has an impact on the quality of marriage life itself (Yulianti, 2010).

The purpose of this study is to know empirically, whether or not the influence of interpersonal communication to marital satisfaction married wife early who live in Mandangin Island. Researcher take hypothesis that there is influence of interpersonal communication to marital satisfaction among wife who married early in Mandangin Island. The results of this study are expected to contribute to empirical studies within the scope of developmental psychology studies, especially on the influence of interpersonal communication on marital satisfaction of married wives early, as well as a reference for further research of the same kind. In addition, it can provide insight to married couples who married early in Mandangin Island about the importance of effective interpersonal communication in maintaining marital satisfaction and family harmony. Ultimately this research is expected to provide the basis for government and natural practitioners to provide curative interventions to married couples early.

1.1 Early Marriage

The National Population and Family Planning Agency of Indonesia (BKKBN) notes that in 2015 cases of early marriage continue to increase and proportional to the increasing divorce rate in Indonesia. Early marriage is seen as one of the main causes of continued increase in divorce rates on a national scale. Then according to the Head of Youth Section BKKBN East Java Province, the number of early marriages on the island of Madura reached 60 percent of the total population, and most are residents in remote areas.

When looking at the type of marriage, couples who married early on Mandangin Island is a traditional pair type. In traditional couples, especially for women, the difficulty in communicating affects the lack of openness of wives to husbands who lead to conflicts and is significantly associated with decreasing marital satisfaction (Taniguchi & Kaufman, 2014). According to the Mandangin Island Village Profile Booklet, Mandangin Island community is a Madurese who embraces a patriarchal culture in which Zainah, et al. (2012) explains that traditional couples who embrace patriarchal culture have problems in sexual and interpersonal aspects, authority that seems to marginalize the women. Based on interviews that the writer did to wife who got married early in Mandangin Island got information that wife less open in communicating with husband, because assume husband as authority figure. In addition, the conditions under which the majority of husbands work as fishermen make communication less effective. Conditions in which the wife is not open in communicating result in less effective communication and can affect marital satisfaction (Vanover, 2016). When couples communicate openly about issues of marriage, including sexual intercourse then they will feel closer, increased sexual satisfaction and reduce the effects of dissatisfaction in their relationship (Litzinger & Gordon, 2007).

1.2 Marital Satisfaction

Qualified and satisfying marriage is a lovingly compassionate marriage, far from dispute, and is expected to have children of good character, as it grows in a family of fun experiences from the marriage life of their parents (Goode, 1991). The term of marriage quality is usually constructed as the happiness of marriage or marital satisfaction. Both contain elements about a positive feeling that couples have in marriage that mean wider than pleasure, pleasure and joy. The difference between the two is

that marital happiness refers to affective evaluation whereas marital satisfaction refers to cognitive evaluation (Glenn, 2003). According to DeGenova and Rice (2005), marital satisfaction is a subjective evaluation felt by husband and wife to the life of her marriage that is influenced by all aspects of the married life, and raises the feeling of how satisfied the individual to his married life. And according to Fowers and Olson (1993) marital satisfaction is an evaluation of the quality of marriage from various aspects of communication, conflict resolution, personality issues, leisure activities, financial management, sexual relationships, family and friends, equality of roles, religious orientation and child and parenting. Then the results of research Billingsley, et al., (2005) concluded nine factors namely the stability of relationships, love, sexual, same personality, religion, decision making, intimacy, and the importance of effective husband and wife communication.

Lee (1977) found that the age at marriage positively associated with marital satisfaction. This means that the increasing age at marriage, the satisfaction of marriage will also increase well. In contrast, it is known that the younger the married age has adverse effects such as infidelity, jealousy and other problems that can lead to divorce (Harris, 2005). In addition, sex is found as one of the factors associated with marital satisfaction. In most societies in the world, wives report experiencing lower marital satisfaction than husbands. Because during the interaction in her marriage, women use more emotional decisions and become unhappy for longer periods of time than men (Howe, 2012).

Although marital satisfaction is the main thing every couple wants to achieve, conflicts within the household remain unavoidable. Common conflicts in couples are finances, sex, personality differences, leisure use, communication, infidelity, in-laws and parents, and children (Strong, DeVault, & Cohen, 2011). Conflict that is not immediately resolved properly will make one partner experience dissatisfaction marriage (Juhari, et al., 2013). If married individuals experience dissatisfaction in their marriage, then there is the possibility of prolonged conflict, divorce and other unwanted things (Rini & Retnaningsih, 2007). Huston's research, et al., (2001) reported that low marital satisfaction encourages individuals to consider divorce. The dissatisfaction in marriage can lead to violence or harassment of both physical and psychological partners, eliminating intimacy, unable to perform life functions well, and cannot resolve disputes even through mediation. This causes the couple to be in a protracted conflict and

encourage them to make a divorce decision (Tegegne, et al., 2015).

1.3 Interpersonal Communication

Interpersonal communication is essential to maintaining harmonious relationships and is a strong foundation of marriage (Handayani, et al., 2008). DeVito (1997) defines interpersonal communication as messaging by individuals and the reception of messages by other individuals or groups of people, taking into account their impact and the opportunity to provide immediate feedback. According to DeVito (1997) for effective interpersonal communication, at least the individual must have five general qualities of empathy, supportiveness, positiveness, equality and openness. One of the factors that affect the quality of interpersonal communication is emotional maturity (Aw, 2011). For couples who marry early where age has not reached physical maturity, psychological and emotionally susceptible to conflict because it has not been able to control emotions well (Fadlyana & Larasati, 2009).

The results of Muslimah (2014) study concluded that interpersonal communication has a strong relationship with marital satisfaction whereas when interpersonal communication is high then the satisfaction of marriage is also high and vice versa. This is reinforced by Markman (1981) longitudinal research that the quality of interpersonal communication predicts both short-term and long-term marital satisfaction. Clements, Stanley, and Markman (2004) explain that the quality of interpersonal communication contributes to constructive conflict resolution and a strong predictor of marital satisfaction. Interpersonal communication is a medium for sharing experiences and feelings, expressing love verbally, expressing forms of appreciation during life together and discussing various aspects and decision making in marriage (Tavakolizadeh, et al., 2015).

Hawkins and Booth (2005) in their study found that low marital satisfaction significantly had a negative effect of decreased self-esteem, decreased physical health, increased psychological pressure, and low happiness and life satisfaction. In recent times a number of studies have proven that the absence of marital satisfaction in married couples affects the development of childhood personality and adaptation (Nagaraja, et al., 2012).

2 METHOD

2.1 Research Instruments

The data were collected using survey method and using questionnaire in the form of Likert scale. The subject is then asked to express their agreement or disagreement to the statement consisting of four choices: Strongly Agree (SS), Agree (S), Disagree (SS), and Strongly Disagree (STS). The use of the scale with the continuum 1 to 4 is intended to negate the middle or hesitant answer. This research uses two measuring tools that is scale of interpersonal communication made by Praptaningtyas (2012). This measuring instrument has 38 items that refer to the interpersonal communication dimension by DeVito (1997) and has tested its reliability of 0.95. And marital satisfaction scale using ENRICH Marital Satisfaction Scale (EMS) by Fowers and Olson (1993) and has been adapted by Pamungkas (2016) and has tested its reliability of 0.76.

2.2 Sample

The number of subjects in this study was 56 people. In this research the sampling technique used is using non-probability sampling technique. Then in sampling the author using snowball sampling technique.

Characteristics of the sample in this study are:
1. Wife who married early on Mandangin Island. Limitation of early marriage according to BKKBN and UNICEF Indonesia is where one or both married couples under the age of 18 years.
2. Have at least 1 child. According to some studies, the presence of children affects the satisfaction of marriage both husband and wife related to the expectation of the presence of the child (Hendrick & Hendrick, 1992).

The process of determining the sample research using snowball sampling technique that is first selected one or two people but because with these two people have not felt complete for research data, the authors look for others who are considered more know so as to complete the data provided by the previous. And so on until the number of samples more and more (Sugiyono, 2010). Then the process of data retrieval is done directly every subject supervised by researchers because of the variable that is very personal and local cultural factors that need a deep approach with the subject in order to understand each item well.

2.3 Analysis Technique

This study aims to test whether there is influence of interpersonal communication to marriage satisfaction. Therefore, the statistical method used is simple linear regression analysis technique. This technique is used if there is only one independent variable and one dependent variable. Simple regression analysis is used to predict the magnitude of the effect of independent variables on dependent variables (Morissan, 2012).

3 RESULT

3.1 Descriptive Analysis Results

Table 1: Duration of Marriage

Duration of Marriage	Marital Satisfaction			Number of Subjects
	Low	Average	High	
1-5	1	9	3	13
6-10	2	7	6	15
11-15	3	7		10
16-20	2	7	2	11
21-25	2	2	1	5
26-30		2		2
Total				56

Table 2: Age at Married

Age at Married	Marital Satisfaction			Number of Subjects
	Low	Average	High	
10			1	1
12		1	1	2
13	1	1		2
14	2	3		5
15	2	3	3	8
16	3	16	4	22
17	3	10	2	15
18		1		1
Total				56

Table 3: Analysis Descriptive

	Interpersonal Communication	Marital Satisfaction
N	56	56
Mean	108.23	42.01

Standard Deviation	8.85	4.67
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Table 4: Categorization Based on Interpersonal Communication Score

Category	Norm	Number of Subjects	Percentage
Low	$X < 99,4$	9	16,07%
Average	$99,4 \leq X < 108,23$	39	69,64%
High	$108,23 \leq X$	8	14,28%
Total		56	100%

Table 5: Categorization Based on Marital Satisfaction Score

Category	Norm	Number of Subjects	Percentage
Low	$X < 37,34$	11	19,64 %
Average	$37,4 \leq X < 46,7$	34	60,71 %
High	$46,7 \leq X$	11	19,64 %
Total		56	100%

3.2 Simple Linear Regression Test Result

Based on the results of simple linear regression test using SPSS 22 for Windows program obtained information that the significance value of simple regression test result is 0.035 so it can be said that interpersonal communication variable has a significant influence on marital satisfaction because it has $p \text{ (sig)} < 0.05$.

The result of simple regression analysis gives determinant coefficient to give information of the influence of independent variable to dependent variable. The determinant coefficient is a measure that states the level of conformity of the regression line of the research sample according to the data formed in the regression equation. Obtained value of determinant coefficient (R^2) that is equal to 0,080 or 8%. The value provides information that the magnitude of influence between interpersonal

communication (independent variable) to the dependent variable (marital satisfaction) is 8% and 92% influenced by other factors not examined in this research.

In addition, simple linear regression analysis yields linear line equations. The general equation of a line is $Y = a + bX$. Based on the analysis results obtained line financing $Y = 25.84 + 0.14X$. The above linear regression equation gives information that if there is no interpersonal communication variable, the value of marital satisfaction is 25.84. The value of regression coefficient X of 0.149 means that any increase in the level of interpersonal communication will increase the value of marital satisfaction amounted to 0.14 units. The result of positive regression coefficient indicates that correlation between interpersonal communication and satisfaction of marriage is positive, where if interpersonal communication increase then marital satisfaction will increase, and vice versa.

4 DISCUSSION

Based on the categorization of subjects on the results of research found that linear data where when interpersonal communication is high then high marital satisfaction. This is in line with research Gottman (2004) which concluded that the higher the quality of interpersonal communication then the satisfaction of individual marriages will increase and vice versa.

The majority of subjects who are in the range of 1-5 years of marriage duration have high marital satisfaction. This is supported by the opinion of Marker (2005) that marriage in the early five years tend to have higher marital satisfaction than other marriage age. Then the subjects who are at the age of 1-10 years marriage have medium and high satisfaction categories of marriage. This is reinforced by Baumeister (2007) which states that marital satisfaction tends to be high in the first ten years.

Based on the data norms categorization of marital satisfaction known that majority of subjects has reached satisfaction in marriage, and please note that all subjects had married under 18 years. Meanwhile, according to Lamanna and Riedmann (2012) the ideal age of marriage is the age of 22-25 years which tend to have high marital satisfaction, stable and happy than others. This is supported by the opinion of Williams, Sawyer, & Wahlstrom (2006) in which women who get married early feel not ready to accept the role change in marriage, so vulnerable to experience dissatisfaction in marriage life and often

lead to divorce. That opinion is not absolute and can happen to the whole of society. We need to know that the satisfaction of the marriage itself is a subjective evaluation felt by husband and wife to his married life that is influenced by all aspects of the marriage life (DeGenova & Rice, 2005).

According to qualitative research results Wong and Goodwin (2009) marital satisfaction is a culture-influenced construction. In the context of an early marriage in Mandangin Island, all subjects are ethnic Madurese and uphold the religious and cultural traditions of Madura. In a Madurese cultural marriage, it is known to have a matrilocal residency pattern but the kinship system adopted is bilateral with patriarchal powers (Henfi, 2012, in Rakhmawati, 2015). The patriarchal culture attached to the local wisdom of Madurese women is manifested in three concepts: *adhanden*, *arembhi* and *amasak* which must be done by Madurese women to devote their life to husband and family. So, the duty of a married woman is to obey her husband, to fully serve her husband, to make her husband happy and to give whatever the husband desires with respect and respect (Farida, 2012, in Rakhmawati, 2015).

Although the majority of wives who married early in Mandangin Island have achieved marital satisfaction, we could not rule out 11 subjects who are in the low marital satisfaction category. This illustrates that there are still married wives early in Mandangin Island who feel not or not satisfied with his marriage. Hawkins and Booth (2005) found that low marital satisfaction has a negative effect over the long term. These negative effects include low welfare, low happiness, low self-esteem, poor physical and mental health and increased psychological pressure. In addition, low marital satisfaction can lead to violence or abuse in both physical and psychological partners, eliminating intimacy, unable to carry out the functions of life well, and unable to resolve disputes even through mediation. This causes the couple to be in a protracted conflict and encourage them to make a divorce decision (Tegegne, et al., 2015).

In addition, it was found that subjects who have a large number of children have lower marital satisfaction. This is supported by the opinion of Ghahremani, et al., (2017) who examines the number of children and the sex of the child on the marital satisfaction of the wife. The results showed that the number of children was negatively related to marital satisfaction. This means that when the number of children increases the wife's satisfaction will decrease.

Although the majority of wives who marry early in Mandangin Island have interpersonal communication in the medium and high category, we cannot rule out 9 subjects with low interpersonal communication. This shows that there are still married wives early in Mandangin Island who have not conducted effective interpersonal communication. A thick patriarchal culture that makes a wife in Mandangin Island has a tendency to harbor and save herself every problem in her life, and have the fear to express her wishes. It is worth noting because interpersonal communication is an important aspect related to almost all aspects of married life. Effective interpersonal communication is essential to maintain long-term marital relationships because effective and quality interpersonal communication is the foundation of strong marital satisfaction (Strong, DeVault, and Cohen, 2011).

5 CONCLUSION

For married wives early is expected to develop the quality of effective interpersonal communication to achieve high marital satisfaction. For further research on similar topics, it is hoped to consider other factors besides interpersonal communication that can affect marital satisfaction. Then look at cultural factors in the context under study, further research is expected to use interview method in order to obtain more in-depth data.

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