



Optimising The Role Of Local Government In Efforts To Minimise Premarital Sexual Behaviour Among Teenagers In Ratu Agung Sub-District, Bengkulu City

M. Rozak Firmansyah¹, Alexander², Rahiman Dani³

^{1,2,3} Universitas Pro.Dr.Hazairin, Sh Bengkulu

¹ e-mail: rozakfirmansyah123@gmail.com ¹, alexander@gmail.com ², rahimandani@gmail.com ³

Received [26-06-2024]

Revised [30-07-2024]

Accepted [04-08-2024]

Abstract. Adolescence is a very decisive period because during this period children experience many changes in their psyche and physique. Premarital sexual behavior in adolescents tends to continue to increase, therefore researchers conducted a study entitled Optimizing the Role of Local Government in Efforts to Minimize Sexual Behavior. The formulation of the problem in this study is how to optimize the role of the Local Government in efforts to minimize premarital sexual behavior in adolescents in Ratu Agung District, Bengkulu City. The purpose of this study was to determine how to optimize the role of the local government in minimizing premarital sexual behavior in adolescents in Ratu Agung District, Bengkulu City. The research approach used in this study is a qualitative approach. The results of the study of Optimizing the Local Government of Ratu Agung District in socializing premarital sexual behavior in adolescents are as follows: socialization, conducting socialization in religious study groups, conducting socialization in schools, rejection of underage prospective brides in synergy with other agencies. internal in the form of supporting facilities and infrastructure and budgeting for guidance activities so that this can encourage the implementation of various work programs to be carried out properly. The conclusion of this study is that the optimization of the Ratu Agung sub-district government in minimizing premarital sexual behavior in adolescents is as follows: socialization, conducting socialization in religious study groups, conducting socialization in schools, rejection of underage prospective brides in synergy with other agencies.

Keywords: *Sexual Behavior, Premarital, Teenagers*

INTRODUCTION

Adolescence is a very important period, because at this time children experience many changes in their body and soul. (Harton, 2017: 22). The occurrence of psychological changes causes confusion in the younger generation, because they experience emotional confusion and mental pressure, so they easily deviate from the rules and norms that exist in society (Alfiyah et al, 2018: 4). Changes and developments of the times increasingly bring problems in the social life of society, one of which is abnormal behaviour or promiscuity. One of the most critical aspects of adolescence concerns relationships, same-sex and opposite-sex relationships (Ardina, 2017).

The government's role in overcoming early marriage, including age limits for marriage. Marriage is regulated in Article 7 of Marriage Law No. 1 of 1974, which states that marriage is permitted when a man is 19 years old and a woman is 16 years old. In addition, the government also issued a policy on human reproductive behaviour contained in Law No. 10 of 1992 which states that the government will establish a policy for the implementation of family planning. Meanwhile (Warow, 2000) 'control is the process of ensuring the creation of effective activities

that enable the creation of company goals'. The problem faced in curbing early marriage is the loss of women's rights to education and reproductive health.

Based on the results of the Bengkulu Province Riskesda Report in 2018, the age of first marriage for women aged 15-19 years in Bengkulu was 45.9 per cent. This figure is higher than the national average of 41.9 per cent. Meanwhile, Bengkulu Province has the sixth highest age at first marriage in Indonesia (6.3%) in the age group of 10-14 years (Bengkulu Riskesda, 2018). The results of the 2020 Mid-Term Development Plan (MDP) survey conducted by BKKBN Bengkulu Province showed that 3.1% of adolescents in Bengkulu had sex with their partners before marriage. Up to 5.1% were adolescent boys and 1% were girls. In addition, 2.3% of adolescents in Bengkulu Province had sex before marriage other than with their partners.

Another study was also conducted at SMAN 0 1 in Rejang Lebong Regency, Bengkulu. Five out of ten students admitted to having dated and had sex (Fahriyana, 2019). Based on data quoted by the Bengkulu Provincial Office of Child Empowerment and Protection (DPPPA), there are 119 cases of violence against adolescents in Bengkulu City and as many as 164 cases of pregnancy outside of marriage among students in Bengkulu City. and data on abortion cases among adolescents, especially students, as many as 64 cases (DPPPA Bengkulu Province Indonesia at the Ministry of Health, 2021). Data from the BKKBN of Bengkulu Province in 2018 showed 10 administrative districts and teenagers getting pregnant out of wedlock. Seluma Regency has the most cases with 64 cases and Kaur Regency the least with 20 cases (BKKBN Bengkulu Province 2018). Seluma district consists of 14 sub-districts. Seluma Regency is compared to seven other administrative regencies, including administrative regencies near Bengkulu City (Seluma Regency Government, 2021). Seluma Regency still has many remote areas that are difficult to reach, one of which is Sukaraja District, so there is still a lack of premarital sexual behaviour among adolescents. Other data also shows that Seluma Regency in Sukaraja District has the highest number of marriages, with 209 marriages throughout the year (BPS Seluma Regency, 2018).

Data from the Seluma Regency Women's Empowerment and Child Protection Office shows that the most cases of violence against women in Seluma Regency are cases of sexual violence, the UPTD PPA of Seluma Regency reported and served 5 cases of sexual violence from January to November 2021 (UPTD PPA. Seluma Regency, 2021).

The Head of the KUA (Bureau of Religious Affairs) of Sukaraja Regency said that Sukaraja Regency is one of the districts with the highest number of early marriages and every year the number of early marriages in Sukaraja Regency continues to increase. The number of early marriages (aged 16 years) was 3 out of 10 marriages in 2019 and increased to 5 out of 15 marriages in 2020, the average reason for early marriage, especially for teenagers who are still in school, is due to the incidence of pregnancy outside marriage. Other information was obtained from the local village midwife, according to which the midwife often helped with the birth of small children (Bupati KUA Sukaraja, 2021).

Community perceptions of the problem of premarital sex among adolescents greatly influence the increase in premarital sex among adolescents (Fitriani and Hamsinah, 2021). The phenomenon of people who view premarital sex as a problem among adolescents is a common and natural problem along with the times (Dahriah et al., 2020). Even with a lot of premarital sex, people try to hide it and choose different ways, for example, usually getting married to avoid embarrassment (Rahardjo, Saputra, & Hapsari, 2015; Raharjo & Salve, 2014).

In 2018, the Bengkulu Provincial Government implemented Governor Decree No. 33 on Child Marriage Prevention. In addition to the governor's decree, the local government together with relevant agencies also implemented strategic steps by organising sexual and reproductive health education for children and adolescents from an early age (Wellina, 2018: 18). However,

until now the number of early marriages continues to increase from year to year. This has an impact on health problems, Infant Mortality (AKI) and Infant Mortality (KMR) (Febriawati et al., 2020).

Based on initial surveys and information from residents of the Ratu Agung Bengkulu area, many teenagers are pregnant outside of marriage. Apart from getting pregnant out of wedlock, some of the causes come from parents' financial factors and children's own desire to be more educated and interested in getting married, so children often drop out of school and choose dates.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Optimisation

The basic definition of optimisation is best, highest, most beneficial, best, best. Optimisation is the result achieved in the desired way, so the goal of optimisation is to achieve the expected results effectively and efficiently. According to the Indonesian Dictionary of the Ministry of Education and Culture: Optimisation comes from the word optimal which means best, highest. Therefore, optimisation can be interpreted in this case as 'the action, process or method of making something (such as a design, system or decision) better and more complete, functional or effective'.

According to Hotniar Liringoringo, optimisation is the process of finding the best solution, not always the highest profit that can be achieved when the goal of optimisation is to maximise profits, or not always the lowest cost that can be reduced when the goal is to minimise costs.' Optimisation is also often defined as the amount by which all needs can be met by the activities performed. According to Winard, 'Optimisation is a measure that results in goal achievement.

Premarital Sexual Behaviour

According to the Big Indonesian Dictionary (2001:93), the word premarital comes from the word 'pra' which means 'before', while 'nikah' officially means the contract between a man and a woman to become a man and a woman. In general, a 'prenuptial agreement' is defined as something that happens before a man and a woman agree to become husband and wife. Hallen (2005:142) defines premarital sexual behaviour as any behaviour motivated by sexual desire, either towards the opposite sex or the same sex. This behaviour occurs before marriage or during courtship.

Meanwhile, Soetjningsih (2004:1) says that premarital sexual behaviour in adolescents is any sexual behaviour based on sexual desire with the opposite sex that is carried out by adolescents before marriage. According to Simanjuntak, premarital sexual behaviour is any activity such as holding hands, kissing, making out, having sex based on sexual desire that occurs before marriage.

While Andyaani and Setiawan. (2020) say that premarital sexual behaviour is behaviour driven by sexual desire in men and women, starting from dating, courtship, sex without official marriage based on faith and law. Based on the differences in concepts above, premarital sexual behaviour can be interpreted as behaviour related to sexual lust with the opposite sex or the same sex before entering into a legal or religious marriage.

Adolescents

The term adolescence comes from the Latin word *adolescere* which means growing towards maturity (Hurlock, 1991: 206). According to Hurlock, adolescence is now used to indicate mental, emotional, social and physical maturity. According to Monks (2004:262), young people are those aged between 12 and 21 years who are in the transition from childhood to adulthood.

The division of early adolescence into ages 12-15 years, middle adolescence into ages 15-18 years, and late adolescence into ages 18-21 years. At the same time, Atkinson et al. (1999: 135) argue that adolescence marks the transition from childhood to adulthood. During this period there is a development towards sexual maturity, the creation of an identity as an individual who is separated from the family and earns a living. Based on the various opinions expressed above, it can be concluded that adolescence is a transitional phase from childhood to adulthood, where in this phase a person begins to grow and develop towards physical, social and psychological maturity.

Premarital sex

According to Sarwono, premarital sex is sexual intercourse between adolescents without a marriage bond. Adolescents perform various types of risky sexual behaviour consisting of certain steps such as holding hands, dry kissing, wet kissing, caressing, holding or touching sensitive body parts, making out, oral sex and sexual intercourse (coitus), premarital sexual behaviour, which in turn can cause various adverse effects for the younger generation itself.

METHODS

In this study, researchers tried to obtain information and data using the type and approach of research.

Judging from the type of data, the research method used in this research is descriptive qualitative. Descriptive is a problem formulation that directs research work to find out or describe the social situation being investigated comprehensively, extensively and thoroughly.

The research method used in this research is a qualitative approach. Qualitative research methods are research methods that produce descriptive data about people and observable behaviour (Hallen, 2020) Through qualitative research, the author uses open-ended interview methods and observation to gain an in-depth understanding of the attitudes, views, feelings and behaviour of individuals. This research was conducted in the Ratu Agung area of Bengkulu city from May to June 2024.

In qualitative research, the researcher himself is the instrument or tool. Therefore, the researcher as an instrument must also be validated to what extent the qualitative researcher is ready to conduct research which then plunges into the field (Sugiyono, 2015). However, this research also uses research tools in the form of interview guidelines and document guidelines that can sharpen and complement the results of observation findings.

Key informants are people who are the main subject / target of research. Key informants know and can answer researchers' questions both orally and in writing to find out the premarital sexual behaviour of adolescents in Ratu Agung sub-district, Bengkulu city. The main informants of this research are the employees of the Ratu Agung Sub-district Office.

Supporting informants are people who complement the information derived from the main informants. The sampling technique used in this research is purposive sampling, which means that the researcher selects samples by determining certain characteristics that are in accordance with the research objectives so that it assumes answers to research problems. The criteria for selecting informants for this research are people who have done the behaviour, totalling 10 teenagers from Ratu Agung Sub-district, Bengkulu City (Identity withheld).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results of this study are the form of how to optimise the role of local government in efforts to minimise premarital sexual behaviour in adolescents in Ratu Agung District, Bengkulu City as follows:

Socialisation

Socialisation of premarital sexual behaviour in adolescents has the following objectives: to reduce the spread of venereal diseases and to reduce underage marriage in Ratu Agung Sub-district, Bengkulu City so as to minimise the impact of underage marriage for the sake of forming a sakinah household life (Dahriah: 20). Underage marriage is in accordance with government recommendations contained in the law on marriage No. 16 of 2019, which states that marriage can be carried out by a couple with a minimum age limit of 19 years. Such marriages are not good compared to marriages that are old enough with the aim of increasing the productivity of children and the safety of mothers, as well as the possible impact of divorce.

Based on existing data, the number of early marriages in Ratu Agung District has decreased every year, this can be seen from the table:

Table 1 Recapitulation Of Marriage Data For Minors In 2023

No	KUA Kecamatan	Name		Date Birth		Place of Marriage	Marriage Date	Bengkulu PA Stipulation Number	Ket
		Husband	Wife	Husband	Wife				
1	Ratu Agung	Heru Agustian	Nurul Fadhilah	17-08-2005	19-08-2007		12-02-2023	06/Pdt.P/2023/PA.BN	
2	Ratu Agung	M. Ghifar Adha Riyansyah	Nadia Syahri Afrianti	04-02-2004	01-03-2006		19-03-2023	10/Pdt.P/2023/PA.BN	
3	Ratu Agung	Alfindo Ifanka Ramadham	Meriza	21-10-2005	09-05-2002		11-03-2023	20/Pdt.P/2023/PA.BN	
4	Ratu Agung	Sapeis marandi	Shintia Dila Utami	04-09-2004	22-03-2005		11-03-2023	90/Pdt.P/2023/PA.BN	
5	Ratu Agung	Nelsen candra w	Intan Permata S	31-08-2007	14-08-2006		15-12-2023	119/Pdt.P/2023/PA.BN	

Source: Ministry of Religious Affairs Office 26 June 2024

The table above shows the number of underage marriages in 2023 starting from 2023. The real efforts made by the Regional Government of Ratu Agung Sub-district, Bengkulu City in tackling premarital sexual behaviour among adolescents are carried out through preventive efforts (Rahardjo, 2015).

Implementation of Socialisation in the Taklim Group

To prevent premarital sexual behaviour at a young age in Ratu Agung Sub-district, the role of parents is very important. influence Therefore, of course, socialisation related to early marriage must be communicated not only to adolescents, but also to parents (Ardina, 2017). In the concept of communication as a system, it is found that the integrity of communication built since childhood is very important.

Implementation of Socialisation in Schools

In order to prevent premarital sexual behaviour among young people in the Ratu Agung environment, it is known that young people even at school age voluntarily enter into early marriage. Therefore, the district government, especially in the Ratu Agung sub-district of Kota Bengkulu, always holds routine socialisation in every school in the Ratu Agung district area to raise awareness of the younger generation.

Rejection of Underage Couples

According to the latest law, children under 19 are not allowed to marry. If the couple applies and turns out to be underage due to premarital sexual intercourse (Andayani & Setiawan, 2020), it will be rejected with a form numbered model N7, and in this case the person concerned must ask for age. permission from the court. and then try. . With the judge's approval, the prospective bride and groom can register with the KUA.

Young couples sometimes come to the KUA with various conditions and reasons related to premarital sexual behaviour, if the couple falls ill during pregnancy, the KTU can only provide a letter to be submitted to the court. The application for marriage is made in the form of a (voluntary) petition, not as a court proceeding. The court's decision is formalised in a regulation.

In contrast, if a prospective bride comes to the KUA under the age of 19, but there is no compelling reason to marry, the KUA will reject her without going through a court process. This is in accordance with Law Number 16 of 2019, Law Number 16 of 2019 concerning Amendments to Law Number 1 of 1974, Article 7 Paragraph 2 of Law Number 16 that

Synergy with other agencies

To prevent premarital sexual behaviour, one of the efforts of the Ratu Agung Regency apparatus of Bengkulu is to establish synergies with other stakeholders. Given that the coverage of premarital sexual behaviour in Ratu Agung Sub-district is quite extensive and the number of employees in the sub-district is limited, it is important to create synergies with other agencies. Ratu Agung District staff work with various stakeholders such as empowerment, women's protection, child services, and population and family planning. Early marriage (at a young age) does have a lot of negative impacts. That is why sub-district staff work in Ratu Agung sub-district.

CONCLUSION

When the author describes the numbers as numbers, and the research report and data analysis as a whole, then at the end of this thesis research, the author makes a conclusion about the content of the work as follows:

Bengkulu City will optimise the efforts of the district government in minimising premarital sexual behaviour at a young age in Ratu Agung District by carrying out social activities in recitation groups and schools. In addition, the local government also rejects underage brides whose minimum marriage age is 19 years according to the Marriage Law 16 of 2019. And the latest effort made by the ustadz to optimise efforts to minimise premarital sexual behaviour at a young age in Ratu Agung Regency, Bengkulu is a place for family planning counseling and protection of women, children and society.

The optimisation of local government in minimising premarital sexual behaviour at a young age in Ratu Agung District has several supporting factors, namely internal factors in terms of supporting facilities and infrastructure as well as the budget for mentoring activities. in order to contribute to the implementation of various work programs; external factors, namely the existence of a cooperative relationship with several interrelated agencies that have the same interest in preventing early marriage, especially in Ratu Agung sub-district (Raharjo et al., 2020). Meanwhile, the inhibiting factors are internal obstacles, including the limited number of premarital sex counsellors or counsellors in Ratu Agung sub-district and budget issues; and external obstacles, namely community ignorance of what has been transferred and provided by the local government in daily implementation.

LIMITATION

Based on the research findings and conclusions above, the author provides several suggestions to the Ratu Agung Provincial Government to further increase socialisation through good religious education to areas that have not been reached and are still minimal in terms of marriage or other matters relating to religion and marriage law.

The Ratu Agung Regency Government argues that it must be more active in increasing the socialisation of sex education, reproduction, marriage and the impact of underage marriage in the community, especially among teenagers.

REFERENCES

- A.Hallen, *Bimbingan dan Konseling*,(Jakarta: Ciputat Pers, 2002)
- Alfiyah, N., Solehati, T., & Sutini, T. (2018). Gambaran Faktor-Faktor yang Berhubungan dengan Perilaku Seksual Pranikah pada Remaja di SMPN 1 Solokjeruk Kabupaten Bandung. *Jurnal Pendidikan Keperawatan Indonesia*, 4(2). <https://doi.org/10.17509/jpki.v4i2.10443>
- Andayani dan Setiawan. *Perilaku Seksula Pranikah Terhadap Aborsi*. *Jurnal Psikologi*//
- Ardina, M. (2017). Akses informasi kesehatan reproduksi. *Jurnal Komunikator*, 9(1), 17-24.
- Dahriah. Jabbar, A. Rusdi, M. (2020). Strategi Pemerintah Dalam Meminimalisir Pernikahan Dini Di Kecamatan Maritengngae Kabupaten Sidendeng Rappang. *Jurnal Ilmiah Pemerintah*, 8(3), 163-172. <https://doi.org/10.51817/prj.v8i3.291>
- Hartono, D.(2017). Perilaku Seksual Remaja dan Persepsi Mereka tentang Pendidikan Seksualitas di Sekolah. Dalam: *Jaringan Epidemiologi Nasional (JEN)*. 2007. Kumpulan makalah Kesehatan Reproduksi Remaja-Temu Tahunan VIII Jaringan Epidemiologi Nasional. Denpasar Bali

- Raharjo, W., & Salve, H. R. (2014). Hubungan Orang Tua-Anak, Kelekatan Teman Sebaya, dan Usia Melakukan Hubungan Seks Pertama Kali pada Manusia. Seminar Nasional Ketahanan Nasional Sebagai Aset Bangsa.
- Rahardjo, W., Saputra, M., & Hapsari, I. (2015). Harga Diri, Sexting dan Jumlah Pasangan Seks yang Dimiliki oleh Pria Lajang Pelaku Perilaku Seks Berisiko. *Jurnal Psikologi*, 42(2), 101-114.
- Rahardjo, W., Saputra, M., & Hapsari, I. (2015). Harga Diri, Sexting dan Jumlah Pasangan Seks yang Dimiliki oleh Pria Lajang Pelaku Perilaku Seks Berisiko. *Jurnal Psikologi*, 42(2), 101-114.