

Conference

Unwanted Adolescent Pregnancy From a Gender Perspective

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Abstract. Adolescent pregnancy is increasing annually with the rising number of teenage girls. Government policies regulating family planning pose a dilemma for couples. These policies increase the prevalence of unmet needs among adolescents. This research aimed to describe the phenomenon of adolescent pregnancy from a gender perspective, using a qualitative descriptive approach. The results showed an increase in adolescent pregnancies, specifically from 559 cases in 2017, to 684 in 2018, 897 in 2019 and 806 in 2020. The family environment, especially unhappy parents, is a determinant of unwanted pregnancy in adolescents. Early marriage is a common alternative in an effort to “improve the social image of the family in society”. This suggests that women bear the brunt of gender inequality, but gender inequality is fundamentally dangerous for everyone and ultimately detrimental to the national economy.

Keywords: adolescent, unmet need, KTD, parents, gender, culture

1. Introduction

1.1. Gender Perspective

Gender is a society's view of the differences in roles, functions and responsibilities between women and or men which are the result of socio-cultural construction and can change and or be changed according to the times. Gender roles are taught from generation to generation from parents to their children. Since young children, parents have treated girls and boys differently, although sometimes without them realizing it (1). In essence humans have an equal position between men and women. Both are created in the same degree, dignity and worth. However, in the course of human life, there have been many changes in the roles and status of both, especially in society. Over time, this process becomes a habit and becomes entrenched. As a result of the attachment of these gender traits, the problem of gender inequality (discrimination) arises, namely (2). MarginalizationThe process of marginalization (marginalization/impoverishment) which

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results in poverty, occurs a lot in society. Marginalization of women as a form of gender inequality. Subordination is basically the belief that one sex is considered more important or more important than the other sex. Stereotype View (Standard Image) Stereotype in question is a standard image of an individual or group that is not in accordance with the existing empirical reality (2,3). Negative label in general always breeds injustice. Violence Various forms of violence against women as a result of differences, appear in various forms. The word violence is a translation of violence, which means an attack on a person's physical or mental integrity. Double Burden Another form of gender discrimination and injustice is a double burden that must be carried out by one particular type of calamine in excess. In a household, in general, several types of activities are carried out by men, and some are carried out by women (4).

1.2. Background

Member states of the 193-member United Nations unanimously adopted the Sustainable Development Goals On September 25, 2015, a set of 17 goals to change the world by 2030. Goals—a common vision, to end poverty, save the planet, and build world peace — gaining global momentum. in particular Goal 3 on health, Goal 4 on education and Goal 5 on gender equality. The year 2030 is in sight, the government's efforts to make it happen are still constrained by many factors. One of the factors related to gender is teenage pregnancy. Adolescence is the period between 10 and 19 years with unique physical, social, psychological and reproductive health characteristics (5).

WHO data reports 10 million unwanted pregnancies occur every year among adolescent girls aged 15-19 years in developing countries. It is common knowledge that unwanted pregnancies are caused by unmet need among teenagers. Impact unmet need one of which is illegal abortion is a very detrimental problem, especially for women. Of the estimated 5.6 million abortions that occur annually among adolescent girls aged 15-19 years, 3.9 million are unsafe, contributing to maternal mortality, morbidity and prolonged health problems. Adolescent mothers (aged 10-19 years) face a higher risk of eclampsia, puerperal endometritis, and systemic infections than women aged 20 to 24 years, and infants of adolescent mothers face a higher risk of low birth weight, preterm delivery, and high-risk neonatal conditions. However, this has not been able to suppress the pregnancy rate among teenagers (6).

The phenomenon of pregnancy among adolescents is increasing year by year along with the increase in the adolescent population. Government policies that regulate family planning causes the dilemma of access to family planning only for married couples (6,7).

The excess of the policy increases the prevalence of unmet need among adolescents, this leaves a problem in the future. In addition, mentally, adolescents who use contraceptives will feel that they can behave sexually actively without risking pregnancy, meaning that they will be permissive to this behaviour and it will be very easy to change partners, even though all contraceptives still have a failure rate and sexual intercourse is not only result in pregnancy. But also exposed to STDs (Sexually Transmitted Diseases) The number of abortion cases in Indonesia every year reaches 2, 3 million, 30 percent of which is done by teenagers. Knowledge about reproductive health is still considered taboo for adolescents while the phenomena that occur are very contradictory.

Worse yet, Adolescent pregnancy is often caused by promiscuity. Lately, the lifestyle of millennials, as the most IT users, contribute to the problem. Many millennials imitate celebrity lifestyles, including early marriages that are massively exposed. Without the support of pregnancy parent Teenagers are very difficult to maintain because they are very vulnerable to conflict. Gender inequality often occurs in situations that are caused in these situations. The multi-factorial condition of environmental, family and most basic unpreparedness is the teenager himself. The average delivery at the Malang Hospital in the last 3 years between 2018-2020 was 39829 deliveries and 19.9% (795) were pregnancies in adolescents. In the last 2 years, RSUD Lawang reported that there had been at least 11 illegal abortions that ended with complications. How to explain unwanted pregnancy from a gender perspective and its impact on development is the aim of this study.

2. Materials and Methods

This study uses a qualitative descriptive method. This method is "research that produces descriptive data from people and observed behaviour in written and oral form" (8). The use of this method aims to describe the phenomenon of teenage pregnancy from a gender perspective. Informants were selected purposively. The study was conducted in May 2021. Data were collected through a series of interviews related to the incidence of unwanted pregnancy in adolescents. 3 informants were selected purposively. In-depth interviews were conducted face-to-face (face-to-face) with a duration of 45-60 minutes. Determination of informants is based on the ability of informants to answer openly every question that will be asked with criteria, teenagers who do not want pregnancy who come to Malang District Hospital. Secondary data was also collected from the Malang City Health Office document. Observations are made on the completeness of work tools in carrying out the duties and functions of the institution. The analysis used

refers to the interactive model (Miles and Huberman, quoted by Herdiansyah, 2011: 164-180). Here there are four stages that are passed, namely: (1) data collection starting from the pre-field, during the field research, and post-research; (2) data reduction, namely processing data into an oral (during research in the field, and post-research; (2) data reduction, namely processing data into an oral (during research in the field, and post-research; (2) data reduction, namely processing data into an oral (*script*) to be interpreted; (3)*display* data, namely the presentation of data in the form of a short narrative to then be interpreted according to *settings* the issues discussed; (4) conclusions, in the form of affirmation or drawing of the 'common thread' analysis to provide accurate answers to research questions. This research was approved by the Research Ethics Commission Institute Of Technology And Health (ITEKES) Bali, Indonesia nomor 04.0552/ KEPITEKES-BALI/XI/2021.

3. Results and Analysis

Description of the condition of the research object.

This Study describe the state of the area that is used as the object of research, namely geographical location, population conditions, educational conditions, economic conditions in the research area which is intended to provide an initial reference to this study. Lawang Regional General Hospital is a Regional Hospital owned by the Malang Regency Government which is located in on a land area of 6,600 m² with buildings built and used for services to date covering an area of 7,083.59 m² located in North Malang with service coverage areas covering North Malang and the border of Pasuruan Regency. Lawang Hospital is not the only regional hospital that serves the people of Malang Regency. In Malang district itself, there are two regional general hospitals owned by the local government of Malang regency.

Pregnancy among adolescent

The results of the study were the number of teenage pregnancies in the working area of the Malang District Health Office.

The following is the distribution of pregnancy among adolescents in Malang Regency from 2016 to 2020. Graph 1 shows an increase in pregnancy among adolescents from year to year in the working area of the Malang District Health Office, at most in 2019 as many as 897 cases of pregnancy in adolescents, in 2020 as many as 806 cases, in 2018 there were 684 cases and in 17 there were 559 cases.

Unwanted Pregnancy Interview Results among teenagers

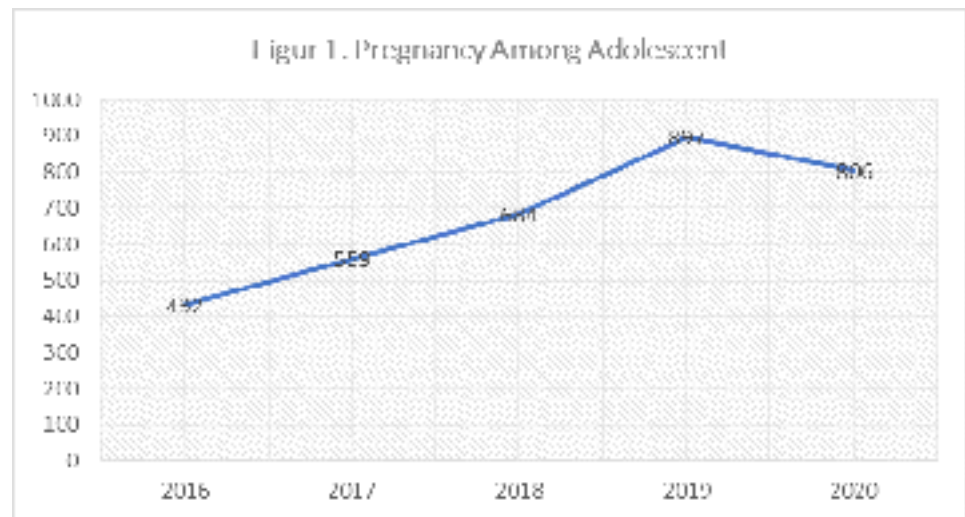


Figure 1: Pregnancy Among Adolescent. (Source: obtained from primary data).

TABLE 1: Participant in Interviews

Study method	Type of partisipan	Number of Partisipan by location			Total
		Hospital	Public services	Health	
Interviews	Pregnant women/ adolescent Parents	2	1	1	3
Total		4	2		6

^aParticipant was present in interview which made the total number of participants 6

Family The family as a social group consists of a number of individuals who have relationships between individuals, there are ties, obligations, responsibilities among these individuals. Functions carried out by the family according to (Clayton, 1999) include the functions of education, socialization, protection, feelings among family members, religion, economy, recreation, biology, and affection. The social environment of children is closely related to the behaviour they show. Children who get along in a good environment, then the child will be good; and vice versa children who hang out in a bad environment will also be followed by their behaviour that is not good as well. In relation to unwanted pregnancies among teenagers, if they can choose a good social environment, it will certainly have a good effect on their association. The pattern of parental education in the family is able to shape the behavior of children so as to prevent promiscuity. On the other hand, if one chooses to choose, it will certainly have a negative impact on his behaviour. Thus, it is clear that the social environment will affect adolescent behaviour (9). Often parents ignore their children’s behaviour as stated by the informant:

"Since junior high school I have started dating, until I entered high school I always dated Ms. Parents also don't control such as the informant's confession "never really, doc, so far I have never been banned from dating problems"

The lack of religious education in the family also causes promiscuity, such as the informant's answer

"The religious education in my family is mediocre, doc, I myself rarely recite the Koran in the prayer room like other friends. I almost never go to the prayer room or mosque, my parents also never told me to go to the prayer room or mosque. So, to be honest, my knowledge of religion is still very minimal."

Promiscuity is very close to unwanted pregnancy, as a result of *unmeet need* in socially active adolescents. When pregnancy has occurred, in general, parents will ask the man as his girlfriend to immediately marry him, as stated by the informant;

"At that time I was confused what to do, I finally told my parents that I was pregnant, finally my parents told me to get married to my boyfriend."

Another informant revealed to his girlfriend before his parents. Psychologically, teenagers take action without thinking about the impact on their future. As revealed by the informant when he found out about her pregnancy, namely;

"I said to my girlfriend, we were confused, confused about how to tell my parents it was impossible, because my girlfriend's position was still in the 3rd grade of SMK and had not yet graduated. In the end, we thought about having an abortion. I had an abortion but the baby failed to do so, my fetus didn't fall as we both wanted. Finally, my stomach was getting bigger day by day, many neighbors and friends had suspected that I was pregnant. Finally I dared to talk to my parents in court with my family, finally I was told to get married."

Facing an unwanted pregnancy, teenagers are not prepared with the situation at hand, such as the informant's answer;

- 1. I feel sad, Doc, confused about how I take care of my child. While I do not know how to take care of children. Sometimes when I'm confused, I cry, almost every day."*

In general, the thinking of parents today is more advanced. They think that education is an important part in facing challenges in the future, as conveyed by informants in answering questions about children's education.

"I really want my child to have a higher education, that's why I defend myself, I work as a laborer outside the city so that my children can go to school as high as possible. Let's not be rich, his father is just a laborer"

Economic limitations and the absence of costs are an obstacle felt by parents to support their children’s education, as stated by the following informant.

“Actually I want my child to go to a high school like everyone else, but what can I do with no money for a high school. Until middle school is enough.”

Parents, especially parents of adolescent girls in unwanted pregnancy (KTD) take a bigger role and responsibility than male parents. Culturally, women who are married and do not have a home live more with their parents. This adds to the burden on the family and worsens the economic situation of the family which of course will affect all social and economic aspects of the family. The results of interviews with women’s parents as informants are as follows;

“My child lives with me, automatically for my daily needs, I am still sufficient”

Thus the results of the interview noted that there is gender inequality in adolescents who experience adverse events. Abortion attempts are often made to overcome adverse events in the early stages of pregnancy, if it does not produce results, the solution is reported to the parents as a last resort with all the consequences. The Central Bureau of Statistics of Malang Regency recorded 867 applications for dispensation to the court related to changes in the age limit for marriage, to obtain the legality of marriage.

TABLE 2: Summaries of Adolescent Pregnancy in Gender Perspective

Partisipan	Summaries Result
Adolescent	Parent’s Ignore their children behaviors The lack of religious education Promiscuity The Patner revealed to his girlfriends before his parents
Parents	Education is important part to focus challenges in the future Economic limitation
Cultur	Adolescent pregnant women mostly live with their parents Parents women adolescent and their parents take a big responsibility ity unwanted pregnancy among adolescent
^b Result Interview form adolescent pregnancy women and their’s parents	

The government policy that regulates marriage is Law no. 16/2019 concerning Amendments to Law No. 1/1974 on Marriage has raised the minimum age for marriage for women from 16 years to 19 years. Thus, the age of marriage for women and men is 19 years. However, the Marriage Law still regulates marriage permits under the age of 19. The condition is that both parents of the prospective bride and groom ask for dispensation to the court.

Pregnancy that occurs among adolescents is caused by many factors including the lack of knowledge of adolescents, lack of parental control over the association of adolescents themselves. Lack of parental attention to children. Free association with increasingly sophisticated technology, low level of education, poor understanding of

sex, lack of serious religious education. Teenagers who experience unwanted pregnancies are not happy to have their babies early in life, because they have problems raising their babies. Their main worries are lack of finances, lack of contact with their boyfriends, and loneliness.

Teen pregnancy has major public health consequences for adolescent mothers and their children. For example, adolescent mothers are less likely to take advantage of timely prenatal care, increasing the risk of premature birth and low birth weight. Teen mothers are also less likely to breastfeed, which is a concern because breastfeeding has many health benefits for both mother and baby. In addition, young mothers are more likely to drop out of school, which has unfavorable consequences for their long-term financial prospects. Teenage pregnancy, therefore, results in not only social costs, but also economic costs. Several studies have shown that gender roles influence sexual behaviour and health-seeking behaviour. Adolescent sexual activity shows gender differences in many countries and regions

Gender issues related to adolescent girls, among others: young marriage, teenage pregnancy, generally young girls lack nutrients, such as iron, anemia. Early marriage in young women can place responsibilities and burdens beyond their age. Not to mention if young women experience pregnancy, placing them at high risk of death. The position of women is often cornered in cases of unwanted pregnancy, "abortion" is often a shortcut that is considered to be able to solve the problem. Gender construction in society causes women's position to be cornered in the case of the abortion phenomenon⁹.

Women become marginalists, such as when a pregnancy occurs, women are blamed and social realities are not friendly to women. In relation to the issue of abortion, for example, social and religious realities are still cornering women, even endangering and threatening their lives. Religious views, cultural behavior, government policies as well as legal and social arrangements all point towards women and make them victims of stigma and abortion practices, both physically and mentally, both safe and unsafe abortions.

Gender norms and beliefs, are or beliefs that are socially constructed about how men and women should act, is consistently seen in social messages aimed at teenagers. The impact of gender beliefs is more visible in decision making contraceptive decisions and behavior, for example young women who adhere to women's traditional beliefs in upholding sexual abstinence are often encouraged to be passive in their sexual knowledge and behavior. Many teenage girls report that their first relationship was unplanned, preventing them from using any form of contraception. The use of contraceptives is considered to be.

In addition, male adolescents have more perceptions that those who use contraceptives are women. These findings demonstrate the importance of addressing socially constructed gender norms for adolescent contraceptive use and sexual behavior.

Adolescent girls' lack of empowerment impacts on sexual activity. For example, adolescent girls are pressured to have sexual relations "to please" their boyfriends, even if they do not want it to appear to be an "obligatory" for girls to be sexually active with their girlfriends; for example, they will have sex "if he is a handsome man and that's what his girlfriend wants, or is explicitly forced to have sex. Teenage boys are trapped in stereotypical attitudes towards masculinity, promiscuity and lack of reproductive responsibility. Reasons for KTD in men are more focused on finances constraints and relationships outside of marriage, while women are more concerned with child rearing and social difficulties.

Gender inequality in KTD cases also increases social problems such as, the exclusion of teenage girls who are different from the teenage boys who tend to be ignored by society. Another burden that is borne by young women who experience KTD are: *drop out* from the School and is fully responsible for the care of the newborn if the pregnancy persists. A mother who does not have a good education tends to have a bad parenting style. This is like a real link to the decline in the quality of resources in the future.

4. Conclusion

The family environment, especially parents who are permissive, in promiscuity is a determinant factor of KTD in adolescents. Early marriage is an inevitable alternative as an effort to "improve the family's social image in society". Lack of responsibility from teenage boys as a form of gender inequality in KTD tends to corner women to have abortions. When a marriage occurs in the condition of a young man who does not have a job, the parents of the young woman tend to take over the economic burden. This phenomenon shows that women bear the heaviest burden due to gender inequality, but basically gender inequality is detrimental to everyone and ultimately harms the economy of a country.

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