

Research Article

Neglect of Young Widowed Women in Bojonegoro Regency

Tri Soesantari

Airlangga University

Abstract.

This research aimed to determine the neglect experienced by young widows in Bojonegoro Regency and the efforts needed to improve their circumstances. 80% of widows are young widows under 35 years old. In reality, Young widows in Bojonegoro are often ignored by their families, society and government. This research used Erich Fromm's theory to find the realities of young widows and the forms of neglect they receive. This research used qualitative methods by collecting data using *purposive sampling* and interviewing widows aged 26-35. The results of the research are that young widows in Bojonegoro Regency experience neglect because society and the government are more focused on providing support and attention to their children, not to the widowed themselves. Community treatment is also different between widows because their husbands die and divorce. The biggest problem that burdens young widows is economic problems. Efforts to increase the government's and society's awareness of young widowed women can be made in three ways: providing financial assistance, emotional assistance and providing decent work opportunities. The hope of implementing this research is to reduce the neglect of women, especially young widows in Bojonegoro Regency, and increase concern for them so that they are able to be more economically independent and play a role in society.

Keywords: Neglect; Young widow; Awareness

Corresponding Author: Tri Soesantari; email: tri.soesantari@fisip.unair.ac.id

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1. Introduction

Marriage in Indonesia is a common thing and is considered a very important thing for Indonesian people. This view also has an impact on someone who does not want to get married or if the marriage does not go well, they will receive a bad stigma from society. Women whose marriages are not going well due to various reasons such as separation, abandonment, divorce, or death are called widows. Widows experience quite difficult conditions among society because of the bad stigma attached to them [1]. Widows often experience discrimination and neglect, which results in a large number of widows being in the poor and vulnerable groups of society [2].

According to the Bojonegoro Religious Court website, data was obtained that as many as 1,063 wives in Bojonegoro Regency filed for divorce. Their average age is still

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young and some are even 23 years old. The factors behind this phenomenon include economic reasons, low education, and infidelity [3].

The phenomenon of many young widows is also motivated by early marriage. Data obtained from the Central Statistics Agency (BPS) in 2020 [4] shows that Indonesia is ranked second in ASEAN and eighth in the world with the highest number of early marriages. There are still many girls who marry under the age of 18 and some even marry at the age of 15. This also happens in Bojonegoro Regency, which causes many young widows in Bojonegoro to be in a vulnerable condition due to their lack of education, which results in difficulty in finding work and economic disadvantage after experiencing a divorce [5].

Widows as a vulnerable population should receive care, not stigma from society [6]. However, in reality, the stigma attached to young widows in Indonesia is still very common. Stigmas such as widows being seductive women cause many widows to experience neglect by the community around them [7]. Widow neglect is the act or attitude of not giving appropriate attention to someone who has lost a spouse and is in a difficult situation [8]. There needs to be efforts made by the government and local communities to care for young widowed women. Caring is a way that can be done so that young widowed women do not feel marginalized in society. Caring can create a more harmonious and inclusive societal environment [9]. Caring efforts that can be made include providing emotional and financial support, assistance in daily life, providing social services, job training, education, and organizations working in the field of women's empowerment, providing better job opportunities, and most importantly namely reducing the stigma against widows.

This research aims to describe the neglect received by young widowed women in Bojonegoro Regency from both society and the government. Apart from that, the urgency of this research is to increase awareness of young widowed women in Bojonegoro. It is hoped that later this research can become a recommendation to the government to pay more attention to widows by providing assistance not only to widowed children but also to widowed women themselves. Apart from that, it is also hoped that this research can contribute knowledge to empowering women in Indonesia, especially in Bojonegoro Regency. This research will focus on the neglect that young widowed women have received and the efforts that can be made to increase care for them. The following is the problem formulation in this research:

1. What is the description of the condition of young widowed women in Bojonegoro Regency?

2. What is the form of society's neglect of young widowed women in Bojonegoro Regency?
3. What are efforts to increase government and community awareness of young widowed women?

2. Research Methods

This research uses qualitative research methods with a descriptive approach. The descriptive approach describes how society ignores young widows. This research is located in Bojonegoro Regency, because divorce data in Bojonegoro is still quite high and every year it always increases. Based on data from the Bojonegoro Religious Court, in 2021 the divorce rate was 3,510, increasing in 2022 to 3,724 and in 2023 until May it had reached 1,546 [10]. The majority of people who divorce have an average age of under 35 years and the average age of a divorced marriage is only seven years, which means the duration of a divorced marriage is very short. The informants in this research were young widowed women under 35 years of age. This research data was collected using *purposive sampling*, namely interviewing widows aged 26-35 (according to the Indonesian Ministry of Health, this is early adulthood) in Bojonegoro Regency. This research involved 3 informants, because it was difficult to find willing informants because the majority felt embarrassed to discuss their personal lives after divorce and also did not want to open old wounds by recalling memories of losing their husband. In this research, we found interesting informants, where two of the three informants had been married twice and are now widows. This research data was collected through *in-depth interviews* which were carried out systematically using the guidelines that had been created and based on the research objective, namely studying how young widowed women were neglected in Bojonegoro Regency. Analysis of this research data is by reducing the data into a summary by selecting primary data, focusing on important elements, and categorizing the data. The next stage after carrying out data reduction is that the data is presented in the form of a short narrative description. This is done to make it easier for researchers to analyze and understand the results. The final stage is drawing conclusions and verifying. Meaning making at this stage is influenced by the extent of the researcher's understanding and interpretation [11].

3. Results

3.1. Description of the Condition of Young Widowed Women in Bojonegoro Regency

Based on data obtained in the field, the majority of women after becoming widows returned to live with their parents. The three informants from this research stated that even though they lived in their own house, they were still with their parents to eat.

“Living alone with children but still eating together with family” (Informant Y, Bojonegoro, 26 August 2023)

The three informants were widowed at a young age, namely under 35 years, two of them had been widowed twice and their last education was junior high school. This is because they live in the village, so they are told to marry young by their parents, even after they are widowed there is still pressure to marry again just because they are still considered young by the people around them.

“After I was widowed, I got an arranged marriage, I didn’t want to cry because I had never met, I didn’t know the person, I wanted to be matched, then I was told by one of my relatives, ‘I already have 1 child, what kind of person do I want to look for’, then I gave up” (Informant R, Bojonegoro, 27 August 2023)

The three informants have something in common, namely that they all think about their children rather than themselves when they are alone. They do any work to support their children, it can be concluded that they live for their children.

“When my husband is not there the first thing I think about is the child” (Informant T, Bojonegoro, 27 August 2023)

“It’s not that I don’t think about my feelings, ma’am, but more about my needs, ma’am. What does this mean for my children’s economic needs after this” (Informant Y, Bojonegoro, 26 August 2023)

“After the divorce I worked, because my father was like that, what would my children do if I didn’t work” (Informant R, Bojonegoro, 27 August 2023)

The jobs of these three informants also varied, ranging from daily laborers, online sales or opening angkringan businesses. The three informants also came from different family backgrounds, so economic factors made it difficult for them after becoming widows. Informant Y’s job is as a daily laborer with an income that is still insufficient to support the living expenses of his children. Luckily, he received orphan compensation to pay for his children’s school fees. Likewise, informant T received orphan compensation even though he had a wealthy family background, even though he did not have a

permanent job and did odd jobs selling online, informant T chose to accompany his child at home first. This is different from informant R who was widowed due to divorce. Informant R did not receive compensation for his child so he had to work alone to meet his living needs. Like Informant R's statement that after a divorce the child must go with the mother rather than the father.

The three informants already have grown children, some are even in the second year of high school. As single mothers, they prioritize their children's needs, especially since Informant R's ex-husband did not provide any support for his children.

"If my ex-husband's behavior was still like gambling, now he has children and a new wife is still the same because his behavior until the children are older is like this, he doesn't care about his responsibilities with his children. When he goes to high school, I pay for it myself, even though he lives close by but never gave anything. Sometimes once a year during Eid it's only 100 thousand, just to give pocket money to children during Eid, but like me, I don't demand it because I see that the family is rich in pity, if the friendship is good, don't make it bad. So when I meet him, that's normal, usually when I'm having a celebration, I also give him something. "My second ex-husband sometimes visited his children once a month, until now he never even gave them money, at most he bought the children a bag of snacks when he came home" (Informant R, Bojonegoro, 27 August 2023)

Widowed women in Bojonegoro rarely or even never take part in women's activities or associations. So after they divorced or their husband died, there were no support activities for him. The majority are busy working and because the village is not active in its organization, these widowed women are not active and are less involved in women's association activities or events held by the village.

"No ma'am, because here the PKK seems to be less active" (Informant Y, Bojonegoro, 26 August 2023)

"There are a lot of mothers who join recitation or fatayat groups, but young people here rarely join because of work " (Informant T, Bojonegoro, 27 August 2023)

3.2. Forms of community neglect towards young widowed women in Bojonegoro Regency

The local community is quite concerned about the condition of young widowed women, but this concern is only directed at their children, mothers who have widow status never receive special attention from the community or the government. Apart from feeling pity

or pity, there is also assistance for young widows, namely in the form of compensation for orphans.

“Yes ma’am, I’m sorry because I don’t have anyone to earn a living, especially since my husband died twice, thank God the neighbors also provided help for the children. “Sometimes people give me compensation, ma’am, to pay for school, many people in the neighborhood around ma’am’s house give, sometimes also to different main RTs in this village” (Informant Y, Bojonegoro, 26 August 2023)

“If you don’t get BLT, you can get compensation for orphans from the village and sub-district, if the district applies first, but you can’t get it for the mother. “But thank God, I got it from my husband’s father-in-law who was no longer there, for example, he was given rice for the harvest, he was given money to buy milk for the child, but for the mother he couldn’t get it, hehehe, I’m self-aware” (Informant T, Bojonegoro, 27 August 2023)

As explained by Informant T, apart from the surrounding community, help from the family is also very often provided as the main form of attention for young widowed women. However, as with the surrounding community, material assistance or compensation from the ex-husband’s family or his own family is only directed at the child, not the mother. Most of the young widow’s families help with food, for example providing side dishes for themselves or basic food such as rice provided by the parents or the young widow’s family. T’s statement is also supported by Y and R’s statement that the assistance is only aimed at their children, not themselves.

“Sometimes my husband’s brother gives the children money, but not for me. “I’m usually given rice by people when I’m harvesting, I cook the rice myself, but I usually ask my family for the side dishes, but now I work in a relative’s business making tempeh, so my relatives also help me in the form of employment opportunities” (Informant Y, Bojonegoro, August 26)

“But in fact, the ex-husband’s relatives still buy clothes for holidays, but the father doesn’t, maybe the family still feels a responsibility ” (Informant R, Bojonegoro, 27 August 2023)

However, the form of attention above is different between widows who have died and widows who have divorced. If a widow is left behind, she still gets compensation assistance, but this is different from what informant R experienced as a divorced widow. He never received any assistance from the local community or the government. This is a form of neglect from both society and the government, because they assume that

the widow's child still has a father who can be asked for money, but in reality not all ex-husbands provide child support. Like Informant R who never got anything after divorce, either for himself or his children.

“Well, as far as I know, if you get a divorce, ma’am, you don’t get that kind of attention, ma’am, you still have a father, people think like that, ma’am, so they think they can still ask their father for that” (Informant Y, Bojonegoro, 26 August 2023)

“There’s no help at all ma’am, sometimes I think like this ma’am, but don’t let it happen, in fact it’s still good if you’re left to die you can still get compensation. If I were rich, a widow would never get any help like that. I don’t get any help at all. “I don’t get BLT. Sometimes at the Muharram event, orphans still get aid, because my child is not an orphan, so I don’t get it either,” (Informant R, Bojonegoro, 27 August 2023)

The struggle of these young widowed women is very worthy of appreciation, because even though they do not have office jobs or a decent salary, they still work hard to support their children. Their activities are mostly spent on children and earning a living.

“Meanwhile I’m still on hiatus from work, because my child is still fussy, so I’m still accompanying school children, but now I’m working odd jobs at an online shop and doing snacks, basically anything that makes money” (Informant T, Bojonegoro, 27 August 2023)

“Before opening the angkringan, I used to work odd jobs, ma’am, at my next door neighbor’s convection shop, I worked at buttonholes, sometimes I didn’t get 50 thousand a day, so the older kids wanted to go to high school, and basically I was looking for job vacancies and washing dishes. I did what I could in the food stalls, then in the end I went along with someone who was told to cook like that, but it only lasted a short time, maybe 6 months, then finally I opened my own business until now, thanks to it being smooth, when I first opened it I immediately got a lot of customers. Anyway, how do I get money, without a man I can ” (Informant R, Bojonegoro, 27 August 2023)

After holding the status of widow, this widowed woman, who is still quite young, certainly experiences many difficulties when she divorces or when her husband dies. Not only do they have emotional difficulties, they also have economic difficulties, especially since they don’t just think about themselves, but their children are their main priority.

“What, ma’am, sometimes I’m sad, I have mixed feelings. The main thing is school pocket money, pocket money for children’s Koran reading, even though school is free, I usually use the money people give me to buy children’s books. “Actually, I want to beautify myself, but skin care is expensive, ma’am, I only use 2000 sachets of powder

and that's all lipstick, it's more important for the child that the money is" (Informant Y, Bojonegoro, 26 August 2023)

Apart from economic difficulties, because this young widow woman lives in the village, of course there are many negative stigmas towards this woman. However, the three informants didn't pay any attention to what other people were talking about, they were more indifferent and didn't want to know rather than worry about it.

"I don't know if I'm outside, ma'am, maybe someone has talked about it but I don't know. If someone talks about it, it's normal because I also rarely go out, ma'am, I just work. My way of dealing with it is also what I think, the important thing is that I work, I take care of my child, basically I handle everything myself. Now I have calmed down, especially since I have a job that can actually support me, it's enough so I don't think about it" (Informant R, Bojonegoro, 27 August 2023)

"Yes, ma'am, sometimes it's normal for me to joke around with my friends, I think that's fate. I just took it as a joke. Sometimes it's true that there are sarcasm, ma'am, but if it's another widow, she's beautiful, ma'am. "I don't feel beautiful ma'am" (Informant Y, Bojonegoro, 27 August 2023)

"Yes, there is, but my mother and I are indifferent, so whether there is one or not, I don't think about it and I don't care, it's normal for me too. Even on social media, I'm not the type to show off." (Informant Y, Bojonegoro, 27 August 2023)

Apart from societal stigma, there are a lot of men's temptations towards young widowed women. Based on the results of interviews, these women admitted that they were more indifferent and did not respond when someone teased them, they even pretended that their husbands were still there and working at the same place. away when someone teases you on social media.

"What's tempting is usually from Facebook, some people just look at the account and then inbox that's all. There are also sometimes even neighbors who already have a wife, but I never responded, indeed there are. If you feel like you're definitely afraid, because you already have a wife, sometimes you're even more reluctant to meet" (Informant R, Bojonegoro, 27 August 2023)

" If, for example, someone teases us, we will take care of it ourselves because we have a husband, but my husband will go away to work far away" (Informant T, Bojonegoro, 27 August 2023)

The three informants still find it difficult to remember their lives and shed tears during interviews telling about their lives now, where they have no place to rely on other than family. Therefore, they need support from the environment around them.

“What I need now is work, enthusiasm and support. “Support can come from children, family and friends” (Informant T, Bojonegoro, 27 August 2023)

To accept the situation of this young widow, she also needed time to *move on*, Informant Y admitted that she had been down and sick for a year and Informant R admitted that it took her 2 years to move on because her ex-husband lived in the same village as her.

“At the beginning I was down ma’am, I was sick for almost a year” (Informant Y, Bojonegoro, 26 August 2023)

“I can move on in two years maybe, even though it was me who decided, ma’am, I was the one who was sad, especially since he was the one who got married first, ma’am, then when I heard that he was getting married, it felt like hahahaha, but yes, it’s not a match, but if you think about it now, his behavior is like that why must it be maintained” (Informant R, Bojonegoro, 27 August 2023)

The problem with healing wounds after being left by their husbands is that these young women do not have someone to talk to about their lives. They prefer to bury their feelings rather than confide in their family. They feel afraid of becoming a burden on their family again if they confide in their family.

“I kept it to myself, Miss (the interviewee cried), because I was afraid that if I told the story it would be a burden on my family, ma’am” (Informant Y, Bojonegoro, 26 August 2023)

“No, I never confided in my family, at least with friends when I was at the factory, but never now” (Informant R, Bojonegoro, 27 August 2023)

Different from informants Y and R who did not want to be open with their families, informant T was very open with her family and even her husband’s family so that she received full support to quickly recover from the pain of losing her husband.

“When I was young, I would confide in my friends, but now I confide in my mother, my in-laws are also still young, so they are like my own friends, in fact they support me in getting remarried, I am told to take care of myself” (Informant T, Bojonegoro, 27 August 2023)

Even though they are still young, there must be trauma that makes them lack the confidence to get up and remarry, especially since 2 (two) informants have already been married twice and failed. They admit that children and family are the only people who play a role in restoring their enthusiasm and confidence to rise from adversity.

“I gave up and remembered my child and then I felt enthusiastic again” (Informant Y, Bojonegoro, 26 August 2023)

Your way to restore the self-confidence and enthusiasm for life of these widowed women is by working and providing support from the surrounding environment, especially the family, and the most important thing that motivates them to get up again is their children.

“The problem is work, because the father is like that, how will the child end up working?” (Informant R, Bojonegoro, 27 August 2023)

“Yes, sis’s family is the one who supports me, then every day you see the children keep thinking, if I’m like this, what will the children be like, well, that’s also what motivates me” (Informant Y, Bojonegoro, 26 August 2023)

“Being confident in yourself will get a lot of support, so I just have to believe in myself if I can do it, the main thing is that I will get a lot of support from friends too. “So every time there are siblings, the whole family goes on a trip together, so one year it’s all about traveling continuously, with all the main family, thank God, there’s a lot of support” (Informant T, Bojonegoro, 27 August 2023)

Based on the results of the interview above, young widowed women in Bojonegoro do not really experience psychological pressure such as negative comments or perceptions from society but more just economic pressure, when they are successful they will feel that their self-confidence has built up.

3.3. Efforts to Increase Government and Community Awareness of Young Widowed Women

The increase in divorce cases in Bojonegoro Regency among women under 35 years of age is evidence of the government’s lack of attention or concern for the problems of young women. The main causes of the high divorce rate are poverty and low levels of education. This problem is important to get the attention of all parties, especially the Bojonegoro Regency Government, namely regarding the issue of poverty and education. The absence of special social assistance for widows from the government or society is a form of neglect of widowed women. The government’s attention is always only devoted to orphans, even though in cases of divorce or the death of a husband, the mother or wife who holds the status of a widow is the party who suffers the most. The government and society assume that these women can earn their own living when in reality those who experience this incident also need attention both psychologically and financially.

“No ma’am, only orphans, no compensation for widows. “Yes, if there is PKH, that’s only for the children” (Informant Y, Bojonegoro, 26 August 2023)

“If I don’t get BLT (Direct Cash Assistance), my child will get compensation for orphans from the village and sub-district, in the district we have to apply first” (Informant T, Bojonegoro, 27 August 2023)

“There is no help at all for me, a divorced widow, not even BLT, not even compensation for my children at all” (Informant R, Bojonegoro, 27 August 2023)

Based on the statements of the three informants above, widowed women do not receive any assistance from the government. There are those who receive PKH (Family Hope Program) which is the provision of conditional social assistance to poor families (KM), which are designated as families who receive PKH benefits, namely pregnant women, early childhood, elementary school, middle school, high school, severely disabled and the elderly. From the beneficiary, it can be concluded that the assistance is aimed at the child, not at the widow herself. The PKH assistance also did not help the young widow’s economy, informant Y stated that the money was used up for the children’s school needs. The government’s lack of attention to widowed women can also be seen from the lack of socialization or assistance for young women who are divorced or have died. It can be said that widowed women do not receive any psychological assistance at all from the government, not to mention the many negative stigmas from society regarding the status of widows themselves. The absence of mentoring activities for women is also a form of neglect by society and the government towards widowed women.

Apart from neglect from the government, these young widowed women also feel less cared for by their surroundings. Starting from not having women’s associations, communities or never participating in any activities related to women. They usually gather only when they have tahlil together, or when they take their children to school.

“Now it’s mothers, their friends get together, now kindergarten mothers, in the past, friends just worked” (Informant T, Bojonegoro, 27 August 2023)

This young widow woman stated that the only people who really cared about her were her family.

“There’s nothing about the environment around you, ma’am, only Bulek (mother’s younger brother) took care of the children when I used to stay away from work” (Informant R, Bojonegoro, 27 August 2023)

“Yes, sometimes I can’t pay for electricity, my family helps me, namely my brother, to pay for it” (Informant Y, Bojonegoro, 26 August 2023)

Efforts to raise awareness from the government and society towards young widowed women can be realized by looking at the desires and hopes of these widowed women.

This young widowed woman from Bojonegoro hopes that the government will provide opportunities and good jobs, provide capital assistance for businesses and provide other social assistance specifically for widows. Apart from the government, for the community around this widow, she doesn't want her past to be brought up again and for assistance, such as having a business or work at home, the local community uses her services and buys what she sells.

"That's a good job opportunity, ma'am. In the future, for example, if I can sew, I want the residents of this village to use my sewing services. For the local community, I want it to be just ordinary people, ma'am. I don't want to be brought up again about my husband's death." (Informant Y, Bojonegoro, 26 August 2023)

"If the government were to provide employment opportunities for independent women, they would want to give them capital, those who would accept their own women and have children" (Informant T, Bojonegoro, 27 August 2023)

The hope for women from these young widows is that as fellow women they give the message that women must be strong, independent, smart and can do everything so that they do not fall into the trap of widow status.

"Basically, you have to be strong and independent, you have to be able to do anything, you have to be able to do everything if you leave it behind" (Informant T, Bojonegoro, 27 August 2023)

"Yes, basically like this, women have to be strong, they have to be able to stand on their own feet, they don't have to support men anymore because if we don't rely too much on men, at least we won't be too down ma'am, yes, everyone has to be smart" (Informant R, Bojonegoro, 27 August 2023)

Based on the data above, young widowed women really need attention from the Bojonegoro Regency Government and the surrounding community. The government needs to address the root of the divorce problem, namely low education and the economy. Efforts to help these widows can include socialization and *skills training* for their economic independence. At least, even though there is no cash assistance, they can be more empowered as independent women.

4. Discussion and Analysis

4.1. Condition of Young Widowed Women in Bojonegoro Regency

A young widow is a young woman who is separated from her partner (husband) due to divorce or death. The term widow is the result of a patriarchal society which causes

women who no longer have husbands to be marginalized and live with a status that is ignored by society [12]. This phenomenon of young widows occurs due to early marriage or early marriage, increasing divorce rates, and the unexpected death of a partner. The factors that young widows have to face are social, economic and emotional factors [13]. Young widowed women have experienced economic difficulties because they have to support their children. Culture and religion in Indonesia, which is predominantly Muslim, where in the family the man is responsible for providing for the family while the woman is at home caring for and looking after the children [14]. When you separate from your husband as the main breadwinner for the family, the economic situation of the young widowed woman's family begins to decline, which causes the young widowed woman to have to take on the role of breadwinner and have a job. The jobs of these three informants also varied, ranging from daily laborers, selling online, or opening *angkringan* (food) businesses. The three informants also came from different family backgrounds, so economic factors made it difficult for them after becoming widows. Furthermore, for social factors, young widowed women often experience discrimination, especially living in rural areas, so that many young widows are pressured by their surroundings to remarry and have arranged marriages [15]. Then in reality, the treatment received by widows whose husbands die and divorce is very different. It is known that children of widows whose fathers died still receive assistance from the government and local residents, assistance can be in the form of BLT, PKH and orphan compensation. However, children of divorced widows do not receive any assistance at all even though they are in the same condition where there is no father as the main provider in the family. Furthermore, so far the assistance provided has never been aimed at young widowed women and has only been aimed at their children. This shows that so far widowed women have received little attention. So young widowed women often think about their children rather than themselves when they are alone. They do any job to support their children. Finally, regarding the emotional factor, it is known that young widowed women do not usually talk about their sadness. Post-separation sadness will be kept to oneself and rarely shared with others for fear of being a burden. This was seen during interviews with several informants who cried when discussing how they felt after facing separation. The sadness that is buried in itself will of course become an emotional burden that will affect physical health as well. There were even informants who were sick for a long time after experiencing separation due to deep sadness.

4.2. Forms of community neglect towards young widowed women in Bojonegoro Regency

According to Baah (2018), Hall defines marginalization as a process of ignoring the rights that a person should obtain due to certain goals [16]. This neglect is based on a person's identity, associations, experiences or environment. In this research, one of the groups experiencing neglect will be discussed, namely young widowed women. Neglect of young widowed women is a phenomenon that is still frequently encountered in society. Data findings show that young widowed women never receive special attention from the surrounding community or the government. The form of attention from society and the government is often only given to their children. As someone who has lost their life partner, young widowed women often face negative views and behavior from the people around them. Young widowed women in Bojonegoro explained that they often heard unfavorable rumors directed at them. Apart from the stigma, young widowed women also receive inappropriate treatment, such as men teasing them, which of course not only makes them uncomfortable, but also causes young widows to be seen by the surrounding community as seductive women. Social stigma and stereotypes attached to young widowed women can make them feel marginalized and ignored [17]. The data findings show that young widowed women overcome the bad stigma attached to them by being indifferent if someone says bad things to them. As long as they can still earn a living, they are indifferent to this treatment. Then, related to inappropriate teasing from men, one informant said that she had to lie that her husband worked far away to avoid being teased. This shows that men often fear other men more than they respect women. It is difficult for a young widowed woman to find her happiness again and start a new relationship because of the prejudice attached to her [01]. Accepting the situation of a young widow also requires time to *move on*. The informant admitted that he had been *down* and sick for a year and another informant admitted that it took him 2 years to *move on* because his ex-husband lived in the same village as him. Social isolation, lack of emotional support, discrimination in various aspects of life are forms of neglect that are often experienced by young widows [18]. The lack of emotional support is seen in this young widowed woman who does not have someone to talk to about her life. They prefer to bury their feelings rather than confide in their family. They feel afraid of becoming a burden on their family again if they confide in their family. Then regarding social isolation and discrimination, young widowed women explained that they did not really experience psychological pressure such as negative comments or perceptions from society but more just economic pressure, when they were successful they would feel their self-confidence had built up.

4.3. Efforts to Increase Government and Community Awareness of Young Widowed Women

If we look back, it can be seen that the cause of the increase in the divorce rate in Bojonegoro is due to poverty and low levels of education [03]. This problem is important to get the attention of all parties, especially the Bojonegoro Regency Government, namely regarding the issue of poverty and education. The absence of special social assistance for widows from the government or society is a form of neglect of widowed women. The government's attention is always only devoted to orphans, even though in cases of divorce or the death of a husband, the mother or wife who holds the status of a widow is the party who suffers the most. The government and society assume that these women can earn their own living when in reality those who experience this incident also need attention both psychologically and financially.

According to Fromm, caring is one of the main elements of happiness and meaning in life. Fromm stated that caring is the ability to appreciate and care about the happiness and well-being of oneself and others. This also includes efforts to care for oneself and others. Fromm emphasizes the importance of caring as an important element for achieving happiness and building more meaningful and harmonious social relationships [09]. Efforts that can be made to increase awareness of young widowed women include, (1) Providing financial assistance. It is known from data findings that widowed women in Bojonegoro experience economic difficulties which of course require direct financial assistance. The government is known to have provided assistance in the form of PKH and BLT to orphans, not specifically assistance to young widowed women. Furthermore, the community around young widowed women is also known to often provide financial assistance such as providing side dishes for meals, providing financial assistance to pay for children's school needs, and paying for young widowed women for recreation. This shows that the surrounding community is quite concerned about the financial situation of young widowed women, as stated by Fromm, that concern can increase harmony in social life [09]. Neighbors around young widowed women show concern by trying to help according to their abilities. (2) Providing emotional support. After experiencing sadness due to separation, young widowed women really need emotional support so they can get back on their feet and continue living [20]. The findings of data showing that young widowed women find it difficult to talk about their feelings of sadness and only keep to themselves what they feel is certainly quite sad. They admit that they are afraid it will be a burden if they tell other people what they feel. Apart from that, the government has never carried out socialization and assistance for emotional support

to widowed women, so they do not receive any psychological assistance from the government at all. It can be seen from this section that no efforts have been made to provide emotional assistance to young widowed women. The government has never implemented an emotional assistance program and the absence of a community or women's association that can be a forum for telling stories means that young widowed women prefer to bury what they feel. (3) Providing better job opportunities. To raise awareness for young widowed women, this can be done by trying to provide better job opportunities. The data findings show that the hopes and desires of young widowed women are to obtain work with better wages to support them financially and provide for their children. Providing business capital can also be provided by the government and entrepreneurs around young widowed women. It is known that this young widowed woman feels more empowered if she has sufficient income for the daily needs of herself and her child [19]. Sufficient income will also make young widowed women feel more independent, strong, smart and confident. Providing better job opportunities is an effort that has more impact on the lives of young widowed women than just providing direct financial assistance as has been done by the government.

5. Conclusion

The condition of young widowed women in Bojonegoro Regency, after attaining widow status, women have to face various factors ranging from social, economic and emotional. Earning a living for her children became her goal in life after becoming a widow. However, in reality, these young women who are widows do not have a decent job, they are willing to do various things to earn a living. Economic factors are the main problem for young widows. Apart from that, the demand to remarry because they are still considered young is also a social pressure for them. The emotional factor for this widowed woman is that she cannot talk about her sadness because she is afraid of burdening her family. Despite this, the family is a stronghold and a place for them to return to which provides full support to this widowed woman.

The form of society's neglect of young widowed women in Bojonegoro Regency can be seen from the poverty and low level of education of young widows. The absence of social assistance, both psychological and financial, from the government and society is clear evidence of neglect itself. Even this young widow woman also neglected herself by thinking more about the happiness of her children than her own happiness. Meanwhile, the stigma given by society to widows is quite different. Widowed women whose husbands died more often receive assistance (for their children, not specifically for

widowed women) and also experience less negative stigma from society. In contrast to women who are widowed due to divorce, they receive more negative stigma from the surrounding community, such as women who are disobedient and difficult to control, seductive women, etc. This bad stigma leads to neglect where women who are widowed due to divorce rarely receive assistance, both economic assistance and emotional support for themselves and their children.

Efforts to increase government and community awareness of young widowed women can be done in 3 (three) ways, namely first providing financial assistance such as cash assistance, paying for children's school needs, paying for electricity and providing basic foodstuffs, secondly providing emotional support by means of provide support to young widows, be a good friend and listener, reduce negative comments and create positive and empowering associations. The government can provide outreach for widowed women or provide skills assistance to empower and hone the skills of young widows. Lastly, by providing decent and better job opportunities for widowed women. With these various efforts, it is hoped that these widowed women will have decent jobs, sufficient income and will not feel neglected by society and the government. It is hoped that this research will become a recommendation for the government to provide special social assistance for widowed women. Apart from that, it can also empower widowed women with *skills development* to help their economy. Apart from that, it is also for the community and entrepreneurs to prioritize widowed women and provide job opportunities to young widowed women. The implementation of this research is expected to reduce neglect of women, especially young widows in Bojonegoro Regency and increase concern for young widows so that they are able to become more economically independent and can participate and play a social role in society.

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Declaration of Conflicting Interest/Declaration of Conflicting Interests

The Author(s) declare(s) that there is no conflict of interest regarding the publication of this article

Biography/Biography

Dr. Tri Soesantari Dra. M.Si is a lecturer at the Department of Information and Library Science, Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, Airlangga University. She is the author of Tabligh as a Form of Information Sharing for Women: 'Aisyiyah during the COVID-19 Pandemic in East Java (Journal of International Women's Study, 2022). She is participating of International Conference of Information Science (ICiS 2022), Royale Chulan Hotel, Pulau Pinang Malaysia with paper title Understanding Reference Information of Self Isolation Survivors for Coping Covid-19 (Environment-Behaviour Proceedings Journal, 2022). She also wrote the Anthology Book: Studies in the field of Library and Information Science; Philosophy, Theory and Practice (ISIPIL, 2019). She is active in community service activities, including: Village Library Development In The Face Of Sustainable Development: Improving The Technical Ability Of Pesing Village Librarian Purworsari District Kediri, East Java (2021) and The Role Of The Village Library In Supporting The Women-Friendly Village Program And Caring For Children In Bicak Village, Trowulan District, Mojokerto, East Java (2022). She also actively participates in several workshops, among others National Seminar on Prevention and Handling of Sexual Violence in Higher Education 2022 (Association of Women/Gender and Children Study Center Indonesia (ASWGI)) and International Innovation and Design in Library and Information Science Competition 2022 (Mara University of Technology, Malaysia). She is an active administrator of an organization working in the field of Gender and Social Inclusion (PSGIS) at Airlangga University and Pita Putih Indonesia (PPI) which is the organization that prevents the death of mothers and babies born in Indonesia. She can be reached at tri.soesantari@fisip.unair.ac.id.

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