

# THE ROLE OF PEER GROUP COUNSELING IN PREVENTING EARLY MARRIAGE AMONG CLASS IX STUDENT AT JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL 1 JATINEGARA TEGAL REGENCY IN THE 2023/2024 ACADEMIC YEAR

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## Abstract

Early marriage is a social phenomenon that has a serious impact on the development of teenagers in Jatinegara. The aim of this research is to find out the understanding of early marriage before and after being provided with peer group counseling services, to find out the role of peer group counseling in preventing early marriage among class IX students of Junior High School 1 Jatinegara. Knowing the characteristics of early marriage before and after students are given peer group counseling treatment leads to a decrease in the rate of early marriage. This research approach is a quantitative approach with a pretest and post test design. Data collection using questionnaires, observation, interviews and documentation. The data analysis technique uses validity and reliability tests and the t test.

Keywords: Peer Group Counseling, early marriage, junior high school students

## 1 INTRODUCTION

Law Number 1 of 1974 concerning Marriage defines marriage as "a spiritual and physical bond between a man and a woman as husband and wife, the aim of which is the formation of a happy and eternal family based on faith in the Almighty God (family)".

According to Dunvall and Miller (2012), the law also defines marriage as "a legal relationship that exists between a man and a woman." Early marriage refers to a marriage that occurs before the legal age. Law Number 1 of 1974 concerning "Marriage explains the age limit for someone to marry, namely 19 years for men and 16 years for women".

In Jatinegara village, Tegal district, many people marry their children after junior high school (SMP). It is a fact that early marriage still occurs a lot in Indonesia. Junior High School 1 Jatinegara is a state secondary school located in Jatinegara village, Jatinegara sub-district, Tegal district. Children in the surrounding area really like this school.

Parents don't care or don't understand the importance of education for their children, which causes many children not to go to school. Children who do not go to school choose to work overseas, and some get married. When parents can no longer pay for their child's education, marriage is considered a last resort.

Parents believe that marrying off their children will make their burden lighter because their husband will be responsible for their children. In Jatinegara Village, most parents match their children with men who are more mature or richer than their abilities. This is done to improve the lives of children by marrying rich people. Apart from economic reasons, parents also prefer to marry off their children because they are less aware of the importance of their children's education. On average, parents in Jatinegara Village are elementary school graduates.

Because parents have this kind of educational background, they also apply the same thing to their children. Parents believe that higher education does not guarantee success. Another reason for early marriage is very promiscuity which causes couples to have sexual relations before marriage, which is an understandable factor.

In fact, this event increases the chances of pregnancy before marriage. pregnancy before marriage usually occurs in children. most of them are still in school and already have partners. that's why they take action without parental supervision

## **2 METHODOLOGY**

The research method used in this research is a quantitative method. Quantitative research will produce significant results, such as confirming the existence of significant group differences or the importance of relationships between the variables studied. Quantitative methods collect data in the form of numbers and analyze them with statistics. A quantitative approach is a research method that collects data using questionnaires or questionnaires.

At this stage, using quantitative methods, researchers use an experimental concept that combines a pretest group and a posttest control group. In this design, the researcher will conduct a pre-test to determine the differences between the initial conditions of the experimental group and the control group.

## **RESULTS**

In this chapter, the results of research and discussions that have been carried out regarding the Role of Peer Group Counseling in Preventing Early Marriage in Class IX Students at Junior High School 1 Jatinegara Tegal Regency in the 2023/2024 Academic Year will be described. The validity of the data obtained from research has been collected completely and empirically and has been tested in accordance with what has been formulated in an orderly, planned and systematic manner.

### **3.1 The Relevance of Theory to Research**

Based on the theory put forward that Peer Group Counseling has a big role in teenagers, this is proven in research conducted by Kartika (2008), that counseling with peers is effective in increasing teenagers' self-efficacy regarding risky behavior. This is also in line with the results of research revealed by Wardhani (2014), that peer groups have a big influence on the formation of teenagers' self-esteem. Sharry (in Geldard, 2014) explains that Peer Group Counseling is useful for helping teenagers who have relationship problems with their peers, including them in a group of teenagers who have similar problems.

Early marriage is also known as a marriage entered into by a couple or candidate who wishes to marry at a younger age than the standard marriage age set by law. Students do not yet understand the impact of early marriage. With this treatment, students are able to understand the impact that occurs on early marriage.

Through peer group counseling services to prevent early marriage, this is an interesting thing because the respondents are middle school students who are still in their teens and may still be thinking about their pleasures as teenagers. And so that students are able to understand the aims and objectives of this treatment, researchers use a fun group discussion system so that students do not feel bored and are able to participate in activities.

On the basis of this theory and the results of findings during research at Junior High School 1 Jatinegara, Tegal Regency, theoretically peer group counseling services can be actualized for class IX students in preventing early marriage.

### **3.2 In terms of Data Collection Techniques**

Researchers used a Likert scale for this study. Sugiyono (2016) claims that to measure, the Likert scale uses the opinions, perspectives and perceptions of individuals and groups of individuals regarding social events. The Likert scale describes the variable indicators that will be used to measure the variable, which is then used as the basis for forming part of the instrument, in the form of questions or statements. The answer for each tool has a level of very good to bad. For decision making, data collection methods such as questionnaires, observation, interviews and documentation are used:

#### **a. Questionnaire**

Questionnaires are one of the methods used to search for and collect data in research. A questionnaire is a research tool that consists of a set of questions, or other 'instructions' to collect data from a group of respondents. A questionnaire is a data collection method carried out by providing respondents with a number of questions or written statements addressed to respondents to answer (Sugiyono, 2018:199). According to Suharsini (2010:194), a questionnaire is a collection method in the form of a list of questions and answers from respondent information.

#### **b. Observation**

Observation according to Siyoto and Sodik (2015:77) is the observation of events, movements or processes. Creswell (2016:254) explains that observation is used to collect data by researchers when observing individual activities and behavior at the research site. Sugiyono (2018:229) claims that observation is a way to collect unique data. Therefore, it is concluded that observation is the process of direct observation of the circumstances and conditions of the environment being studied to gain an accurate understanding of events to answer research questions. During observation, analysis is carried out by viewing, recording, calculating, measuring and recording events that occur in the field. All of this analysis must be carried out systematically so that its correctness can be confirmed.

#### c. Interview

To conduct preliminary research, researchers used interview, according to Pridana & Sunarsi (2021:193). Interviews are a technique that is often used to collect information or data from a person or group of people. Interviews can be conducted orally or in writing, and can be conducted by one person or a group of people called interviewers. Interview, according to Djaali (2020:50), is a procedure for collecting material or information through verbal questions and answers with the person being interviewed with a predetermined purpose and route. Sugiyono (2016:194) states that interviews can be used to collect data if the researcher wants to conduct initial research to find out the problem that must be researched and if the researcher wants to get additional information about the respondent. So it can be concluded that an interview is an oral question and answer process in research where two or more people listen to the information or information directly that is needed. This research uses a type of structured interview, which is carried out by creating an interview guide which is prepared systematically and in detail by the interviewer. When asking questions to respondents, these guidelines may help.

#### d. Documentation

Documentation is the process of collecting data from documents related to the research subject. The collection, selection, processing and storage of data in the field of knowledge is called documentation. According to Asep (2018:179), documentation is the collection of data in the form of explanations that are written, printed, or sent otically (in other words, information about inanimate objects). According to Sugiyono (2017:139), the documentation process includes collecting data and information in the form of documents, books, documentation, written reports, numbers, images and information that can support research. Suharsimi (2014:274) states that documentation is the process of searching for data that includes all types of objects or variables, including transcripts, notes, books, newspapers, magazines, inscriptions, meeting minutes, agendas, etc. 37 With this understanding, documentation can be defined as the process of collecting, investigating, searching, using and providing documents.

### 3.3 In terms of Goal Attainment

Researchers can determine research objectives based on the following problem formulation:

#### a. What is the understanding of early marriage before being given peer group counseling services?

The understanding of class IX students at Junior High School 1 Jatinegara regarding early marriage before being given questionnaires and peer group counseling treatment regarding early marriage was very low, so this is what makes the rate of early marriage high. Based on the results of the descriptive analysis that has been carried out, the results obtained before treatment of peer group counseling services in preventing early marriage in class IX students at Junior High School 1 Jatinegara were 2 students with an interval of 99-110 (20%) in the low category, as many as 3 students with interval 11-120 (30%) in the medium category and as many as 5 students with the interval 121-140 (50%) in the high category

#### b. What is your understanding of early marriage after being provided with peer group counseling services?

After being given peer group counseling services to prevent early marriage to class IX students at Junior High School 1 Jatinegara, students' knowledge about early marriage increased. Based on the results of the descriptive analysis that was carried out, the results obtained were 4 students with the interval 135-150 (40%) in the low category, 3 students with the interval 151-165 (30%) in the medium category and 3 students with the interval 170-190 (30%) high category. It can be concluded that after the peer group counseling service was carried out in preventing early marriage, students' knowledge about marriage began to increase and the rate of early marriage began to decrease

#### c. What is the role of peer group counseling in preventing early marriage among class IX students at Junior High School 1 Jatinegara?

The role of peer group counseling in preventing early marriage among class IX students at Junior High School 1 Jatinegara, Tegal Regency in the 2023/2024 academic year is quite successful. This can be proven by the results of the t test data with the help of IBM SPSS Version 26 which obtained the result that the significance value shows a value of 0.000 which is smaller than 0.05, so a decision can be made that there is a significant role between the pretest and posttest results which means that peer group counseling has a role in preventing early marriage among class IX students at Junior High School 1 Jatinegara. So it can be concluded that the hypothesis which states "There is a significant role in peer group counseling services in preventing early marriage at Junior High School 1 Jatinegara Tegal Regency" is acceptable.

### **3.4 Conclusion**

Based on the research results and discussion presented in chapter IV, the researcher presents the following conclusions:

1. The results of the understanding of early marriage obtained before treatment of peer group counseling services in preventing early marriage in class IX students at Junior High School 1 Jatinegara, namely 2 students with an interval of 99-110 (20%) in the low category, as many as 3 students with an interval of 11 -120 (30%) in the medium category and 5 students with an interval of 121-140 (50%) in the high category.
2. The results of understanding early marriage obtained after peer group counseling service treatment were 4 students with an interval of 135-150 (40%) in the low category, 3 students with an interval of 151-165 (30%) in the medium category and 3 students with an interval of 170-190 (30%) high category. It can be concluded that after treatment with peer group counseling services in preventing early marriage, students' knowledge about marriage began to increase and the rate of early marriage began to decrease.
3. The role of peer group counseling in preventing early marriage among class IX students at Junior High School 1 Jatinegara, Tegal Regency in the 2023/2024 academic year is quite successful. This can be proven by the results of the t test data with the help of IBM SPSS Version 26 which obtained the result that the significance value shows a value of 0.000 which is smaller than 0.05. So it can be concluded that the hypothesis which states "There is a significant role in peer group counseling services in preventing early marriage at Junior High School 1 Jatinegara Tegal Regency" is acceptable.

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