

# DETERMINANTS OF EARLY MARRIAGE IN MUSI RAWAS, SOUTH SUMATERA

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## ABSTRACT

**Background:** There are numerous problems a couple can face when marriage happens at an early age, to name just a few of them: (1) Psychological and emotional stress stemming from forced sexual relations, denial of freedom and personal development, as household chores now become a priority; (2) Maturity issue as the little girl is now expected to play the role of a mother. This study aimed to determine factors associated with early marriage in Musi Rawas, South Sumatera.

**Subjects and Method:** A cross sectional study was conducted in Musi Rawas, South Sumatera. A sample of 193 newly married women were selected for this study. The dependent variable was early marriage (marital age  $\geq 20$  years versus  $< 20$  years). The independent variables were unintended pregnancy, maternal education, parental income, and parental religious belief. The data were collected by questionnaire and analyzed by a multiple logistic regression.

**Results:** The risk of early marriage increased with unintended pregnancy (OR= 2.55;  $p= 0.044$ ), low maternal education (OR= 3.71;  $p= 0.028$ ), low parental income (OR= 4.76;  $p= 0.017$ ), and un-favorable parental religious belief (OR= 4.11;  $p= 0.016$ )

**Conclusion:** The risk of early marriage increases with unintended pregnancy, low maternal education, low parental income, and un-favorable parental religious belief.

**Keywords:** early marriage, unintended pregnancy, maternal education, parental income, parental religious belief.

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