

**MARRIAGE COMMUNICATION PATTERNS
FOR UNDERAGE COUPLES
(Case Study in Jamur Gele Village,
Putri Betung District Gayo Lues Regency)**

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Abstract

This study aims to determine the form of communication of underage married couples, as well as to find out the inhibiting and supporting factors in the communication of underage marriage couples and to determine the impact of communication patterns of underage marriage couples on household continuity in Jamur Gele Village, Putri Betung District, Gayo Lues Regency. This type of research is descriptive qualitative research. Descriptive qualitative format is very appropriate to be used to examine problems that require in-depth study, such as the problem of consumer behavior in a product, the problem of the viewer's view of the effects of media on a show, problems in the implementation of public policy in the community and its surroundings. Data collection was done by interviews and documentation. The results of this study indicate that communication of young couples in Jamur Gele Village uses forms of communication, verbal, nonverbal (body language), through intermediaries (by third parties), and communicating if there is a goal to be achieved. Meanwhile, supporting factors for communication between young couples can also be seen from the way each couple communicates, economic factors are also important in building communication between young couples. As for the impact of this form of communication pattern for early marriage couples is caused by the choice of oral and non-verbal communication (body language).

Keywords: *Communication Pattern, Early Marriage, Young Couple*

1. INTRODUCTION

In social life, there were several conditions for an ideal marriage, one of which was emotional and mental readiness, this readiness was identified with sufficient age. In the marriage law it was stated that the ideal marriage is a man aged 21 years and a woman aged 19 years. At that age, a person who is married has entered adulthood, so that he is able to carry out their respective responsibilities and roles, both as husband and wife.

In practice, there were several groups outside the good form of marriage, namely underage marriage. Underage marriage was defined as a marriage that was done outside the age limit that has been determined by the state. As a matter of fact, the age limit for carrying out a marriage was specified in law No.1 of 1974 article 7 paragraph 1 states that "marriage is only allowed if the man is 19 (nineteen) years old and the woman is 16 (sixteen) years old." Once again, it was emphasized in the marriage law No.1 of 1974 article 6 paragraph 2 which reads "to hold a marriage someone who is not yet 21 (twenty one) years old must be accompanied by parental permission." In other words, even if a person who is 21 years old

can get married, the permission of both parents must be included. Thus, a person of that age was not considered mature enough to marry (Sarlito, 2012).

As for the issue that were often encountered in underage marriages such as argumentation, differences of opinion, quarrel, and poor communication patterns. Often the problem was caused by physical or mental unpreparedness, resulting in divorce. However, of the many problems that arise, communication patterns were one of the factors that support the continuity of marriage. In accordance with Kartini's opinion, she argues that communication was very essential which aims for a relationship to be harmonious without any issue (Sobandi & Dewi, 2017).

Markman et al. (2010) stated that communication was important in the marriage adjustment process so that unwanted things such as divorce could be avoided. One of the efforts to create a harmonious household was to create good communication. In the context of the family, a married couple cannot be separated from communication, hence communication using good language would create family relationships more harmonious (Dwima, 2019).

Likewise, the phenomenon of underage marriage was often found in the village of Jamur Gele, Putri Betung District, Gayo Lues Regency. There were many factors behind underage marriages in the village, including self-will, parents' low economic status, low education factors, environmental factors such as the number of friends of the same age who decided to get married, premarital sex factors, and customary factors, where the village still upholds cultural diversity and traditional customs so that various mindsets and views of the community about underage marriage were very reasonable, it can even be said that underage marriage was a common thing for local residents.

The high number of early marriages in the Jamur Gele village resulted in a high divorce rate as well. It was also found that most of the divorce problems in the village arise due to a lack of understanding, maturity and lack of effective communication and use of good language in solving problems in marital relations.

Based on the problems above, this study aims to determine the form of marriage communication between underage couples, the inhibiting and supporting factors in marriage communication for underage couples, and the impact of marriage communication patterns for underage couples on the sustainability of households in Jamur Gele Village, Putri Betung District, Gayo Lues Regency.

2. THEORETICAL REVIEW

2.1. Relational Dialectical Theory

Relational dialectics refers to an emotional value and philosophically based version. The harmony of emotional values in a dynamic relationship, where pushing any value to the extreme contains the seeds of its opposite, was constantly shifting. According to a study by Leslie Baxter which examined the complex ways in which people who were already in a relationship use communication to overcome the naturally opposing forces that afflict their relationships over time (Yulion et al., 2014).

People choose this strategy trying to find a medium that makes them happy between two opposites. Reframing refers to transforming existing dialectics in such a way that dialectics seems to have no opposition. Disqualifying, namely neutralizing the dialectic by giving

exceptions to some issues from the general pattern. Therefore, in this study how the pattern of communication between husband and wife was very important to study in order to minimize problems due to differences that exist, especially problems in differences of opinion and differences in message delivery in underage marriages (Sakina, 2017).

The Relational Dialectic theory introduces a concept that people will become closer to each other, so the more someone is involved in various conflicts, the urge to resolve conflicts will grow by means of communication between them.

2.2. Communication

According to the term "communication" means sharing with others. In other words, by conveying something to someone, exchanging things, informing someone about something, talking, exchanging ideas, making friends and others (Harapan et al., 2022).

According to William F. Gluck, communication was divided into two main parts, namely: (Widjaja, 2000).

1) Interpersonal Communications

Refers to a system of information exchange and transfer of understanding between two or more colleagues in small groups of people.

2) Organization Communications

Refers to a speaker who has a system for providing information and evacuating explanations to various people within the institution and to interrelated individuals and institutions.

2.3. Underage Marriage

Underage marriages are marriages carried out under the specified age, which is less than 20 (twenty) years for women and less than 25 (twenty five) years for men. It is stated in the Marriage Law No. 1 of 1974 Article 7 paragraph 1 as a guideline applicable in Indonesia, stipulates that marriage is permitted if the man has reached the age of 19 (nineteen) years and the woman has reached the age of 16 (sixteen) years. In other words, early marriage is when one of the marriage partners is under the age of 19 (nineteen) years.

Underage marriage is a marriage under the age that is set and the preparation of a child or teenager has not been maximized, whether it is mental, psychological preparation, and of course material preparation. When marriage is carried out on someone who is still underage, of course, teenagers do not have sufficient knowledge about marriage, family, and good conflict management methods so that it will be easy for quarrels in the household that cause marriage to be less harmonious. According to Candra (2018) the Marriage Law which stipulates the age limit for women to be married to 16 years, and if women marry underage, there must be a reason.

2.4. Family Harmony

All couples expect a harmonious family or also known as *samawa family* (*sakinah, mawaddah wa rahmah*). Creating a *samawa* household is like building a house whose foundation is piety. On this foundation were built the main pillars in the form of the nature of the husband as the leader. Whether or not the building is beautiful, depends on the placement and arrangement of walls whose function is to form the building as well as a

barrier from the outside area and as an insulator between rooms. Meanwhile, the wall is like the good nature of a wife (Idain, 2015).

As said by Gunarsa (2000) that it is said to be a harmonious family if all family members feel happy, marked by a lack of conflict, disappointment, acceptance of all circumstances and self-existence (existence, self-actualization) related to physical, mental and social aspects.

3. RESEARCH METHOD

3.1. Research Approach

A qualitative research approach was used in this research. Research that uses a quality methodology as a research procedure that produces descriptive data, in the form of behavior and written words from the observed sources.

3.2. Research Subject Selection

The steps for determining the subject and data source in qualitative research generally offer the following characteristics:

- 1) The provisions are not only on the size of the sample, but in typical cases according to the criteria for the research problem.
- 2) From the beginning, it was not determined formally, but could change as well as the number and characteristics of the sample according to the conceptual understanding that developed in the research.
- 3) Not directed at representation (such as numbers or random events) but at contextual suitability.

3.3. Research Instruments

The form of the research instrument used by researchers to collect existing data related to the object to be studied is an interview guide, then supported by a tool to record the results of interviews (tape recorder), a book for recording questions and interview results and cameras as documentation tools (Satori & Komariah, 2011).

3.4. Research Informants

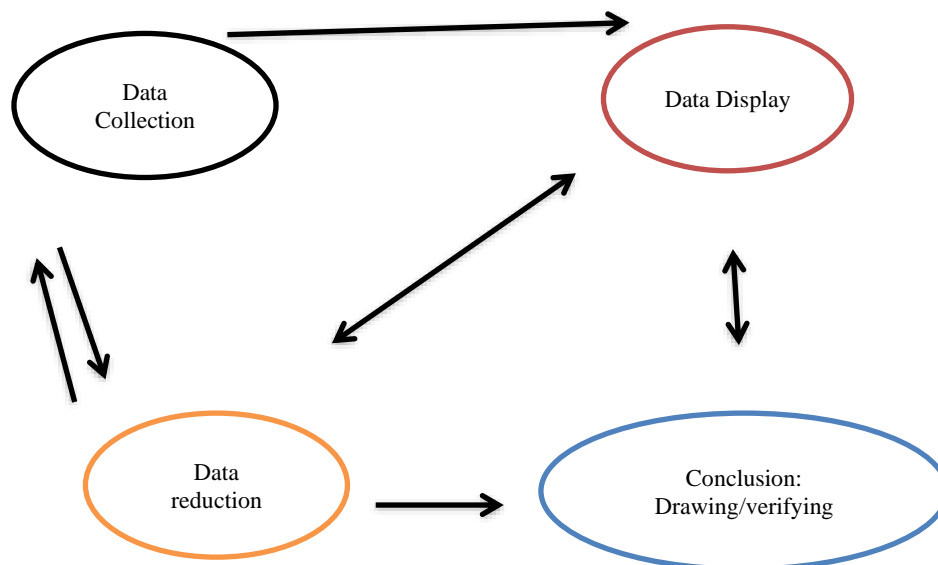
In this case, research informants were divided into two, namely main informants and supporting informants. Main informants were informants who were in accordance with the formulation of the problem that the researcher made. While the Supporting Informants were additional informants, whose problem formulations does not have to be the same as the main informant's problem formulations.

3.5. Data collection technique

Data collection techniques used in this research were carried out by Observation, Interview and Documentation.

3.6. Data analysis technique

This research uses data analysis techniques, namely qualitative analysis. The process of data analysis in this study was described as follows:



Source: Miles and Huberman 1992 in Sugiyono (2017)

Figure 1 Interactive Model Data Analysis Process

4. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

4.1. Research Result

4.1.1. Forms of Marriage Communication for Underage Couples in Jamur Gele Village, Putri Betung District, Gayo Lues Regency

As the results of the researcher's interviews with several informants who married at an underage age, there were several forms of communication patterns. Young couples tend to use verbal and non-verbal forms of communication. The form of verbal communication shows that in their daily life, married couples tend to use direct language and face to face sometimes using high-pitched voices and yelling. Nonverbal communication can be seen using the form of body language that does not greet each other and is silent to each other.

This situation was strengthened by Sapuan and Fatimah Binti as a couple. Fatima said that: "My husband often uses a high pitched voice when he is emotional, such as yelling. When there is a problem, they will not greet each other, and when I want to discuss the problem again and want it to be resolved, sometimes I can't control my emotions so my husband will get angry too." (Interview: 2022).

In addition to verbal and non-verbal forms of communication, underage married couples in Jamur Gele Village also show communication patterns using other people who participate in communicating things to their partners. This situation was indicated by the participation of parents who participate in communication about their children's household problems.

This situation was reinforced by Andi Alwijahri and Mardiah as a couple. Andi said that: "When there was a conflict between me and my wife. Sometimes my parents join in, if there is a fight, my parents-in-law will bring up the problem again, they often say I am a bad man and can't be a good husband. So, when my parents interfere with me and my wife, it becomes more awkward." (Interview: 2022).

Communication has become a part of human life, just as humans need air to breathe. Therefore, because communication has become commonplace, so that without realizing it some people pay less attention to how to communicate properly, as a result, people often experience failure in interacting with each other, causing misunderstandings between one another (Apdillah et al., 2022).

The communication shown by a young couple in Jamur Gele Village also shows a form of non-verbal communication (body language) that makes them sometimes misinterpret the language used by their partner when they are saying something, such as not knowing enough about each other with their partner's attitude.

This situation was strengthened by Anton Riski and Tita Kurnia. Tita explained that: "Sometimes my husband doesn't express his will in words. I also don't understand why he suddenly gets angry and quiet when I ask him, sometimes he also doesn't respond to me and just smiles." (Interview: 2022).

The lack of knowledge and communication between these young couples also makes frequent conversations that are only carried out when they have a specific purpose. This communication occurs when one of them only has a conversation when there is something important that makes one of the parties feel that they are not getting attention.

This situation was strengthened by Jadidi and Pira Permani. Pira explained that: "We only talk when there are important things. Like asking such as: do you still have money left? How is the children's school? What are you going to cook tomorrow? yes there is no romance. It's very different from the first time we got married where we used to talk together and joke around a lot." (Interview: 2022).

Underage marriage couples in Jamur Gele Village also use communication that includes third parties such as parents to convey the message they want to convey to the couple. Because they think that the third party is a solution and a way out of the problems in their household.

This situation was reinforced by Irwansyah and Saniar. Sanar explained that: "When there is a conflict, we often ask our parents for advice and ask them to convey it directly to our partner, because we think that parents understand more about household problems and are also much experienced." (interview: 2022)

The results of interviews with several young couples in Jamur Gele Village show that these young couples use forms of communication, verbal, nonverbal (body language), through intermediaries (using other people), and communicating if there is a goal to be achieved.

As according to the theory of Relational Dialectics, which states that related life was characterized by ongoing tensions between contradictory impulses. Dialectical thinking was not aimed at the search for a medium of happiness in the form of compromise and balance, but focuses on the most messy, illogical and chaotic practices commonly encountered in close personal bonds (Baxter & Montgomery, 2013).

4.1.2. Inhibiting and Supporting Factors of Marriage Communication between Underage Couples Jamur Gele Village, Putri Betung District, Gayo Lues Regency

The inhibiting factor for marriage communication between underage couples in Jamur Gele Village is that the couple's age at marriage is still immature, which makes couples tend

to not be able to understand each other and the mindset of one another is also still immature, so they thought that they were capable of building a household. This was reinforced by the statement of the traditional leader of Jamur Gele Village, Mr. Muhammad Ali, that “In general, early marriages here are mostly because they think they are able to build a household and self-motivation to have a partner without realizing that there are many things that must be considered and prepared when they want to build a household”. (Interview: 2022).

This statement makes it clear that underage marriages are only based on the personal wishes of a couple. This can happen due to the lack of insight of the couple about the importance of communication in running the household. Another situation that hinders communication between married couples is the lack of socio-economic maturity, lack of mental readiness where young husbands and wives are still unstable, both are selfish so that often trivial things trigger quarrels and family interference, namely parents who often trigger the occurrence of quarrel conflict with spouse.

In Jamur Gele Village, couples who marry in the young ages are mostly due to pregnancy out of wedlock, customary regulations that require marriage after an intimate relationship before marriage and lack of parental control over children's behavior. Due to the large number of cases of underage marriages in the village, this has led to an increase in divorce cases for underage couples. This situation was reinforced by the statement of Mr. Juanda (45) as the Head of Jamur Gele Village. “Underage marriages in this village are mostly caused by self-will, premarital relationships, pregnancy out of wedlock and precocious sex. Due to their early age and their unstable mindset, divorce is prone to occur which is caused by not knowing each character, communication that doesn't work well, excessive parental intervention, infidelity caused by emotional instability due to a young age.” (Interview: 2022).

As for supporting factors for young couples' communication can also be seen from the way each couple communicates who already understand each other, accept each other's shortcomings and get support from the environment and family. As explained in relational dialectical theory, it also introduces a concept that a person will become closer to each other, so the more someone is involved in various conflicts, the urge to resolve conflicts will grow by communicating between them. This statement was strengthened by the confession of the couple Ali Sadikin and Sinarwati. "Often, if there is a fight between my husband and I, one of us must be silent. I take an example, for example, my husband is provoked by emotions and is angry, I just keep quiet, I just say yes to whatever he says even though sometimes it doesn't feel good but I just understand the situation. In our opinion, not being provoked by emotions is one way to eliminate the conflict between the two of us. After the situation started to improve, we started to re-communicate the problem in a gentle tone of voice to the couple to solve it.” (Interview. 2022)

In line with the relational dialectical theory, the influence of the theory of relational dialectics can be to accept between negative and positive a relationship so that there is no clash of contradictions from each individual and culture. This situation serves to create a relationship that is more positive and removes any tension of negative contradictions. Especially in the scope of family relations (Sarradian, 2015).

As for the supporting aspects of communication between underage marriage couples in general are the orientation to others and the close emotional bond with partners who have been connected before marriage through the dating process. Another aspect of

communication support in an effort to minimize quarrels that make underage couples' marriages last is that couples do not serve harsh words to avoid conflict.

4.1.3. The Impact of The Marriage Communication Pattern of Underage Couples on The Sustainability of The Household in The Jamur Gele Village, Putri Betung District, Gayo Lues Regency

Couples who aim to have a harmonious household seek to manage relational dialectic contradictions due to different forms of communication because they want to maintain commitment. Maintaining a commitment to hard or happy conditions is called navigation. Give space and time to partners to mature each other.

Leslie Baxter has examined the complex ways in which people who are in relationships use communication to overcome the naturally opposing forces that afflict their relationships over time. Rethinking to the language we use in a relationship. A good moving relationship is characterized by intimacy, self-disclosure, certainty and so on. Tensions between underage marriage partners can occur between two opposing things and will not go away and even stop to create tension and an effort to solve this tension is by communicating between the two partners.

In running a relationship with other people, at least manage communication with the partner, if there is a conflict, communicate the problem so that a relationship can run well, use good words so that openness and bonding with your partner can arise. Although each contradiction involves two different things, the resulting situation extends beyond these two opposites, namely the desire to maintain a relationship with each other. Good communication patterns will create a harmonious and lasting household. If in a household communication does not run smoothly, then a misunderstanding of the partner's intentions or feelings will become a problem and make the husband and wife relationship worse. Direct communication patterns will have a good impact on the continuity of the husband and wife relationship. Early marriage couples who are able to communicate their intentions and goals directly have a relatively long marriage period. In Jamur Gele Village, couples who have direct verbal communication patterns can last longer.

Another impact of choosing the form of communication is to eliminate suspicion and prejudice about a partner. Couples who apply non-verbal communication patterns or use body language communication patterns. The use of this body language often makes some married couples often misunderstand in translating it. In this case, the couple Sapuan and Fatimah Binti use verbal language to express their feelings, the couple Andi Alwijahri and Mardiah have third parties such as parents who sometimes become a barrier to communication between them and their partner, the couple Anton Riski and Tita Kurnia more often use non-verbal language which instead make the couple become misresponsive to the message to be conveyed, the couple Jadidi and Pira Permani communicate when they feel there is something that they feel is important and must be conveyed, the couple Irwansyah and Sanjar asked for help from a third party to become an intermediary for what they wanted to convey to their partner and lastly, the couple Ali Sadikin and Sinar Wati used verbal and non-verbal language and did not respond to harsh words thrown from one of their partners within their household.

The results of this interview indicated that the impact of the communication pattern of early marriage couples was caused by the choice of verbal and non-verbal communication

(body language) and through intermediaries. The impact of this verbal communication pattern can make a partner better understand the message conveyed by his partner. The impact of non-verbal communication or body language will create misunderstandings with each other and make divorce and quarrels between partners vulnerable to occur.

4.2. Discussion

Relational dialectical theory suggests the complex ways in which people who are already in a relationship use communication to overcome the naturally opposing forces that afflict their relationship over time. When a person's relationship is faced with a conflict with his partner, the way to resolve the conflict is to communicate using good language with his partner.

The results of interviews with several young couples in Jamur Gele Village show that in communicating these young couples use forms of communication, verbal, nonverbal, through intermediaries, and must be purposeful. The pattern or form of communication in the Gele Jamur Village has several explanations. The problem of using language in this communication pattern is seen from the view of Aristotle who argues that language is the initial determinant of the success of communication. With language, we can convey and can find out information from other people in the form of speech. Language is the most important thing in communicating between humans, because language can convey certain meanings.

The pattern of communication using other people is also in theory a secondary communication pattern. This form of communication occurs when the process of delivering messages from the communicator to the communicant is assisted by tools or facilities as a second medium after the use of symbols as the first medium (Rustan & Hakki, 2017). Both of these media are used by communicators because the communicant with the target of communication is far away or in large numbers. This secondary process of communication is increasingly becoming more effective and efficient because it is supported by sophisticated communication technology and is also supported by technologies that are not included in communication technology.

The results of this study indicate that the communication supporting factors for young couples can also be seen from the way each couple communicates who already understand each other and receive support from the environment and family. Economic factors are also important to build communication between young couples. Economic limitations are one of the factors that cause underage marriages, families who experience economic limitations tend to marry off their children even though their children are still young. Adolescent education is closely related to the causes of underage marriage. Adolescents who have low education will affect a teenager to marry underage. Underage marriages can also occur due to the influence of parental encouragement or coercion.

The results of this study impact the form of marriage communication patterns of underage couples caused by the choice of oral and non-verbal communication (body language). The impact of this oral communication pattern can make the partner better understand the message conveyed by his partner. The impact of non-verbal communication or body language will create misunderstandings with each other and make divorce and quarrels between partners vulnerable to occur. Poor communication in choosing the form of communication for underage couples will cause bad effects such as divorce. The choice of this form of communication makes underage marriages more vulnerable to quarrels and even

divorce. In Jamur Gele Village, there are still many young couples who have not been able to choose and understand good communication patterns for their partners.

Personality includes elements of personal attitudes and behaviors that exist within a person, whether it is bad or bad. An example of personality barriers in family life is when a husband or wife is in an angry situation with their partner, in this case the subject who is angry only responds by being silent and not open to giving explanations about something that is their problem so that the communication process what happened did not go so well because the communication process only lasted in one direction only because there was no response or feedback from the communicant or the recipient of the message.

There are several obstacles experienced by couples who marry underage. The first is physical barriers, physical barriers here are meant to include work, thus one of the obstacles they have in communicating in a family is one of them work. In this case, work makes it difficult for families to communicate every day because they are separated by distance and time so that the communication process is inefficient and does not work well due to the lack of time intensity to communicate.

Furthermore, the second obstacle is the personality barrier, where personality barriers include elements of personal attitudes and behaviors that exist within a person, whether they are bad or bad. An example of personality barriers in family life is when a husband or wife is in an angry situation with their partner, in this case the subject who is angry only responds by being silent and not open to giving explanations about something that is their problem so that the communication process what happened did not go so well because the communication process only lasted one direction only because there was no response or feedback from the communicant or the recipient of the message.

Then the third obstacle is the age difference, in this case the age difference becomes one of the barriers to the communication process that occurs in a family relationship who marries underage, because the age difference can make a difference in terms of understanding, mindset and also decision making. Hence, the communication process that will be carried out in a family will not go well because of differences in understanding and mindsets that are influenced by age differences which can make the goals of the communication process undirected and do not have the same goals because of the age difference on both young and adult. Basically, young people and adults do have differences in terms of points of view and also different understandings between the two ages. Thus it can be said that the purpose of the communicator to convey messages or information to the communicant becomes ineffective and inefficient because they have different goals, this is what causes the age difference which is one of the obstacles in the communication process.

Finally, the lack of communication tools or media is one of the barriers to communicating in a family, because the communication tool is one of the supporting tools in communicating when separated by distance and time, one of the communication tools is a cellphone where this tool can make a person able to communicate with other people separated by distance and time. According to the findings there were families or informants who has limited communication tools in their long-distance communication, that made it difficult for them to communicate with their partners when their partners carried out the work outside the home, thus the limitations communication tools became one of their obstacles in communicating remotely with their partners who were outside the home.

5. CONCLUSION

Communication between young couples in Jamur Gele Village uses forms of communication, verbal (verbal), non-verbal (body language), through intermediaries (using other people), and communicating if there is a goal to be achieved.

Supporting factors for young couples' communication can also be seen from the way each couple communicates who understand each other and have support from the environment and family, orientation to others, emotional ties that have been connected before marriage through the dating process and do not serve sarcasm from one of the partners to avoid conflict. Economic factors are also important to build communication between young couples. This is because early marriage couples are still not well established to build their family's economy so that good economic factors will be a good supporting factor when they communicate.

The impact of this form of marriage communication pattern for underage couples is caused by the choice of oral and non-verbal communication (body language). The impact of this oral communication pattern can make the partner better understand the message conveyed by his partner. The impact of non-verbal communication or body language will create misunderstandings with each other and make fights even to the point of divorce between couples prone to occur and use intermediaries such as parents.

According to the conclusion above, we suggest that young couples provide root solutions to marital problems experienced by young couples so as to avoid poor communication patterns. Further, to the general public to pay more attention to relationships and premarital knowledge to children and families so that they are not too fast in undergoing marriage. For future researchers, they should be able to use the results of the study as an additional reference for research to be carried out.

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