



The Role of Parenting Style in Shaping Adolescent's Knowledge and Attitudes Toward Early Marriage: A Cross-Sectional Study

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Abstract

Early marriage refers to marriage occurring before the age of 18 years and remains a significant social and public health concern. Several factors contribute to the practice of early marriage, including environmental influences, family conditions, and adolescents' personal perspectives. In the family context, parenting style is regarded as a significant factor influencing adolescents' comprehension and attitudes regarding social issues, such as early marriage. This study aimed to analyze the relationship between parenting styles and adolescents' knowledge and attitudes toward early marriage among students at SMPN 2 Singosari, Malang. This study employed a cross-sectional design. Using simple random sampling, 72 ninth-graders were chosen from a population of 244 students to make up the sample. Structured questionnaires that evaluated parenting style, knowledge, and attitudes toward early marriage were used to gather data. The Chi-square test was used to analyze the data at a significance level of ($p < 0.05$). Adolescents' knowledge of early marriage was significantly correlated with parenting style ($p < 0.001$). Adolescents' opinions regarding early marriage were also significantly correlated with parenting style ($p < 0.001$). Parenting style is significantly related to both adolescents' knowledge and their attitudes in responding to early marriage among students at SMPN 2 Singosari, Malang.

Keywords: early marriage; parenting styles; adolescent knowledge; adolescent attitudes

INTRODUCTION

Early marriage refers to marriage occurring before the age of 18 and remains a significant public health and social issue in Indonesia. The National Population and Family Planning Agency recommends a minimum marriage age of 21 years for women and 25 years for men to ensure biological and psychological readiness (BKKBN, 2024). Nevertheless, early marriage remains common in many developing countries. UNICEF reports show that adolescent girls are particularly affected by this practice (UNICEF, 2020). In Indonesia, the prevalence is still relatively high, especially in East Java, where Malang Regency has a considerable number of early marriage cases (Susenas., 2023).

As a results, marrying at young age can expose adolescents to various health an social risk. Adolescents who marry early are more likely to experience anemia, pregnancy complications, and other reproductive health problems because their bodies may not yet be fully mature (Astuti et al., 2023). Early marriage is also linked to psychosocial issues, including domestic conflict and unstable marital relationships that may eventually lead to divorce (Fachria & Nunung, 2020).

Different factors may influence the occurrence of early marriage, such as socioeconomic conditions, cultural norms, and the family environment (Rika et al., 2023). The family environment establishes marriage perceptions which adolescents learn to practice through their parents' particular parenting methods. Parents use three distinct approaches which researchers have identified as authoritarian, democratic and permissive parenting styles (Wardani et al., 2023). The process of adolescent development requires guidance and direct communication and supervision to help adolescents develop a complete understanding of reproductive health and the dangers which come with early marriage.

While prior research has investigated factors contributing to early marriage, the majority of these studies have concentrated on socioeconomic and cultural dimensions. The existing research fails to provide sufficient evidence about how different parenting styles shape junior high school students in Singosari District Malang Regency their understanding of early marriage and their related attitudes.

The research study investigates how different parenting styles impact adolescent knowledge and attitude development toward early marriage within Singosari District. The research study investigates how different parenting styles impact adolescent knowledge and attitude development toward early marriage within Singosari District.

METHODS

This study used a quantitative observational approach with a cross-sectional design to examine the association between parenting style and adolescents' knowledge and attitudes toward early marriage. We used purposive sampling to pick 72 people based on criteria that had already been set for who could and couldn't participate. Data collection took place from October to December 2024. We used structured self-administered questionnaires to gather information about parenting style, what teens know, and how they feel about getting married young. The instruments utilized a Likert scale and were developed based on relevant literature. Before the main data collection, the questionnaires were checked for validity and reliability to make sure that the measurements were accurate and consistent.

Descriptive statistics were used to show how the study variables were spread out and what the respondents were like. The Chi-square test with a significance level of $p < 0.05$ was used to look at the link between parenting style and how teenagers feel and know about early marriage. Ethical approval for this study was obtained from the Ethics Committee of Universitas Brawijaya (No. 205/EC/KEPK/08/2024), and informed consent was obtained from all participants prior to their participation.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

RESULT

Distribution of Respondent Characteristics

Table 1. Respondent Characteristics

Characteristic		Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
Age (Years)	13-14	36	50,0
	15-16	36	50,0
Sex	Man	33	45,8
	Woman	39	54,2
Living with People old	Yes	72	100,0
Total		72	100,0

The research data illustrates that the distribution of respondent characteristics based on the age range of 72 respondents, grouped into two with the same number, namely 36 respondents (50%) aged 13-14 years and 15-16 years old as many as 36 (50%). Judging from gender, it was dominated by 39 female respondents (54,2%) with 33 (45,8%) male respondents. Based on the characteristics of the place all respondents or as many as 72 (100%) live with their parents.

Distribution of Parenting

Table 2. Distribution of Parenting

Parenting Style	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
Democratic	53	73,6
Authoritarian	9	12,5
Permissive	10	13,9
Total	72	100,0

The results of the study showed that the majority of parents applied the democratic type to the respondents as many as 53 respondents (73,6%). Furthermore, permissive parenting was applied to 10 respondents (13,9%), while authoritarian parenting was applied to 9 respondents (12,5%).

Respondents' Knowledge Distribution

Table 3. Respondents' Knowledge Distribution

Knowledge	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
Good	63	87,5
Enough	7	9,7
Less	2	2,8
Total	72	100,0

This study revealed that as many as 63 people (87,5%), had good knowledge about early marriage. Meanwhile, 7 respondents (9,7%) with sufficient knowledge level and 2 respondents (2,8%) shows a lack of knowledge.

Distribution of Respondents' Attitudes

Table 4. Distribution of Respondents' Attitudes

Attitude	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
Positive	68	94,4
Negative	4	5,6
Total	72	100,0

The results of this study showed that the majority of respondents had a positive or supportive attitude related to early marriage as many as 68 respondents (94,4%) and a total of 4 respondents (5,6%) had a negative attitude or refused. Attitude is defined as a person's ability to approve or reject an object based on an evaluation of an object.

Relationship between Parenting Style and Respondents' Knowledge

Table 5. Relationship between Parenting Style and Respondents' Knowledge

Parenting Style	Students Knowledge of Early Marriage						Total	p - value
	Good		Enough		Less			
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	
Authoritarian	6	66,7	1	11,1	2	22,2	9	100,0
Democratic	50	94,3	3	5,7	0	0,0	53	100,0
Permissive	7	70,0	3	30,0	0	0,0	10	100,0
TOTAL	63	87,5	7	9,7	2	2,8	72	100,0

Based on data obtained from the research table on parenting with adolescent knowledge related to early marriage, from 72 respondents it was found that in the authoritarian pattern there were 6 respondents (66,7%) with good knowledge, only 1 respondent (11,1%) with sufficient knowledge and 2 respondents (22,2%) with less knowledge. In the democratic parenting style, there were 50 respondents (94,3%) showing good knowledge, while 3 respondents (5,7%) had sufficient knowledge. Meanwhile, in permissive parenting, there were 7 respondents (70,0%) showing a good level of knowledge, while 3 respondents (30,0%) had sufficient knowledge. In the analysis with *the Chi Square test*, it was found that there was a relationship between parental parenting and adolescent knowledge related to early marriage at SMPN 2 Singosari, Malang Regency (*p-value* < 0.001).

The Relationship between Parenting and Respondents' Attitudes

Table 6. The Relationship between Parenting and Respondents' Attitudes

Parenting Style	Students Attitudes about Early Marriage				Total	p - value
	Positive		Negative			
	n	%	n	%	n	
Authoritarian	6	66,7	3	33,3	9	100,0
Democratic	53	100,0	0	0,0	53	100,0
Permissive	9	90,0	1	10,0	10	100,0
TOTAL	68	94,4	4	5,6	72	100,0

The data contained in the table between parenting and adolescent attitudes related to early marriage, from 72 respondents it was found that in authoritarian parenting, 6 respondents (66,7%) showed a positive attitude while the other 3 respondents (33,3%) had a negative attitude. In democratic parenting, as many as 53 respondents (100,0%) had a positive attitude and in permissive parenting, 9 respondents (90.0%) showed a positive attitude with only 1 respondent (10,0%) showing a negative attitude. The results of the analysis with *Chi Square* found that there was a relationship between parental parenting and adolescent attitudes related to early marriage at SMPN 2 Singosari, Malang Regency (*p-value* < 0.001).

DISCUSSION

Parenting Style

The relationship is established with the direction for nurture guiding, instilling discipline, and providing protection to children, so that children can develop into mature individuals in accordance with the rules in society is the parenting style of parents. Parenting plays an important role in shaping character and personality children in childhood, but their influence tends to diminish during adolescence because they are more influenced by peers and social attitudes.

The data in the table shows that the parenting methods applied by parents to respondents are dominated by democratic types. This is in line with Yuniwarti (2022), who reported that the majority of parents applied a democratic pattern (43.9%) compared to authoritarian and permissive types. This finding suggests that open communication and balanced control within families may create a supportive environment that discourages early marriage. In a democratic parenting style, teens are usually encouraged to share their thoughts and feelings while their parents still give them guidance and watch over them. Through these kinds of interactions, teens can learn how to think about different points of view before making big decisions in their lives, like getting married (Ulfah et al., 2021).

The type of relationship that parents and teens have is also very important. When there is open and supportive communication in the family, teens usually feel more comfortable talking to their parents about personal problems. This illness might make them more aware of the risks and possible problems that come with getting married young. On the other hand, limited parental knowledge particularly regarding the health and social consequences of early marriage may result in less effective parenting practices, which can unintentionally encourage the continuation of early marriage within families (Rika et al., 2023). Thus, parenting style functions not only as a caregiving method but also as a protective factor in adolescent reproductive health.

Teen Knowledge About Early Marriage

The existing situation involves adolescents who possess both adequate and insufficient understanding of early marriage. The study conducted by Peni et al. (2023) demonstrates that a person's understanding generalizes through his internal elements which include motivation and through his external elements which include access to information and social patterns of his environment. The period of adolescence demonstrates increased vulnerability toward educational programs about early marriage and reproductive health because this time shows rapid development of cognitive abilities.

The extent of a person's knowledge determines their ability to make decisions because greater knowledge allows people to make better choices in life. This explains why adolescents with good knowledge in this study were less likely to support early marriage. The research conducted by Peni et al. (2023) reveals that adolescents with low and moderate knowledge faced higher chances of early marriage than their peers who possessed good knowledge. The need for school and family educational programs becomes more urgent because limited access to reproductive health information results in common misunderstandings about when people become ready for marriage (Hafshah et al., 2021).

Teens' Attitudes About Early Marriage

Attitudes can be understood as evaluative responses toward a particular issue. Adolescents develop their cognitive abilities during their teenage years which helps them form their attitudes about early marriage since they can better understand the associated dangers and permanent effects of this choice. Gender differences also influence these attitudes, with girls often facing greater vulnerability due to social and economic pressures that may encourage early marriage, such as financial constraints within the family and prevailing cultural expectation (Rika et al., 2023).

The study showed that multiple teenagers who participated refused to accept early marriage as an acceptable practice. The study shows that they understand the possible negative results which include family problems and unsafe romantic connections. Fachria and Nunung (2020) reported a similar finding which showed that early marriage in Indonesia leads to higher marital instability. Teenagers who know about these risks are more likely to have attitudes that discourage early marriage. Adolescents who lack knowledge about early marriage outcomes will develop positive attitudes toward the practice when they observe their peers accepting it (Astuti et al., 2023).

The Relationship between Parenting and Adolescent Knowledge of Early Marriage

The results of the analysis obtained p -value < 0.001 (< 0.05), which indicates a significant relationship between parenting style and adolescent knowledge about early marriage in SMPN 2 Singosari. The results demonstrate that parents play a significant role in influencing teenagers' perceptions of reproductive health and the dangers of getting married young. Teenagers' perceptions of this problem may be influenced by the way parents mentor and interact with their kids. However, a lot of parents still struggle to provide for their kids, particularly because they don't know much about reproductive health. Lack of knowledge can make parents' advice less effective and make teenagers more susceptible to getting early married (Hafshah et al., 2021).

The study results demonstrated that families who followed either strict or relaxed parenting practices showed higher rates of teenagers who lacked knowledge about early marriage. Families who enforce authoritarian parenting methods create situations where parents and children face difficulties in establishing communication. This situation results in reduced opportunities for teenagers to engage in discussions about essential matters such as marriage and sex. Families find it difficult to discuss these subjects because cultural taboos create barriers to open dialogue. Permissive parenting allows children to experience excessive freedom because parents provide insufficient monitoring which leads teenagers to encounter outside influences that create false beliefs about early marriage. Democratic parenting enables adolescents to gain knowledge through respectful conversations that include emotional backing and suitable educational methods.

The study results prove that Puspita research study described in 2021 shows that teenagers with both low and sufficient knowledge levels were raised through authoritarian and permissive parenting styles whereas democratic parenting methods led to better reproductive health understanding. Through democratic parenting methods, parents help their children learn about the possible outcomes that arise from entering into marriage at an early age. When parents share their thoughts with their children through open communication, they create an environment which leads adolescents to understand risks better and make informed decisions about their marriage choices.

The researchers from Gunawan et al. conducted their research during 2023 which produced different results than their findings. The research showed that some teenagers who had democratic parenting during their childhood got married at an early age. The difference exists because strong cultural traditions and social norms of that time period have greater power than the guidance which parents provide. The way parents raise their children establishes a connection with broader cultural environments which determine how teenagers will develop their understanding and beliefs about early marriage.

The Relationship between Parenting and Adolescent Attitudes about Early Marriage at SMPN 2 Singosari

The study discovered a significant link between parenting style and the attitudes of students at SMPN 2 Singosari toward early marriage which reached a statistical significance level of $p < 0.001$. The significance of adolescents' attitudes lies in their influence on reproductive health behaviors, encompassing decisions related to marriage. The process through which parents teach their children and interact with them directly influences how teenagers view early marriage.

The research shows that people who support early marriage establish a connection with parents who practice authoritarian and permissive parenting methods. Authoritarian parents enforce strict rules which their children must follow without exception. The way families function at home creates a situation where teenagers lose their right to speak about family matters which include marriage decisions. The situation leads some teenagers to believe that early marriage has become an acceptable social practice. Permissive parenting styles create an environment where parents provide their children with almost no supervision and guidance. Adolescents who lack clear guidance about marriage dating are more likely to follow peer and societal pressures which promote early marriage.

Similar findings were reported by Purwaningsih and Setyaningsih, reported similar results, showing a significant correlation ($p < 0.05$) between parenting style and adolescents' attitudes toward early marriage in Jambu Kidul Village, Klaten. Their research also reported that adolescents raised in authoritarian family environments were more likely to show supportive attitudes toward early marriage, a pattern similar to that observed in the present study.

The research found that democratic parenting methods led to greater preventive measures against early marriage. Parents can deliver reproductive health education through open communication together with balanced supervision which helps teenagers understand the long-term effects of early marriage on their health and education and their financial future (Ulfah et al., 2021; Hafshah et al., 2021).

This research produces different results from Ardayani (2020) because that study found no relationship between parenting style and early marriage occurrence. The results show that parental teachings serve as one factor that influences adolescent attitude development while other elements, including cultural traditions and economic pressure and community standards, remain in play.

Study Limitations

This study employed a cross-sectional design, which limits causal inference between parenting style and adolescents' knowledge and attitudes. Data were collected through self-reported questionnaires, which may be subject to response bias. In addition, the sample was drawn from a single junior high school, restricting generalizability to other populations.

Implications for Midwifery Practice

The findings highlight the importance of involving parents in adolescent reproductive health education. Midwives can play a crucial role in community-based programs by providing counseling sessions for parents and adolescents, promoting open family communication, and delivering school-based reproductive health education. Integrating parenting-focused interventions may enhance adolescents' knowledge and strengthen

preventive attitudes toward early marriage.

CONCLUSIONS

The findings of this study conducted among students at SMPN 2 Singosari indicate a significant association between parenting style and adolescents' knowledge and attitudes toward early marriage ($p = 0.001 < 0.05$). This indicates that adolescents' perceptions and comprehension of early marriage are profoundly influenced by parental oversight, direction, and communication.

The study's results could enhance the existing body of knowledge regarding early marriage and family parenting methodologies. Future research should examine parenting strategies by considering the perspectives of both parents and adolescents, along with other factors that may influence teenagers' attitudes and understanding of early marriage and reproductive health.

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