



The Influence of the Youth Information and Counseling Center (PIK-R) on Adolescents' Knowledge and Attitudes toward Early Marriage at SMA Negeri 1 Toroh

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ABSTRACT

Background: The National Medium-Term Development Plan (RPJMN) targets a reduction in early marriage rates from 11.2% in 2018 to 8.74% by 2024. Despite a 3.5% decrease over the past decade, early marriage remains prevalent. In Central Java, cases increased to 8,700 in 2021, and the Grobogan Religious Court reported 719 cases from January to November 2023. **Objective:** To examine the influence of the Youth Information and Counseling Center (PIK-R) on adolescents' knowledge and attitudes toward early marriage at SMA Negeri 1 Toroh. **Method:** This study employed a cross-sectional design involving 290 students selected through non-probability sampling. Data were analyzed using Spearman's rank correlation. **Results:** Spearman's test revealed a strong positive correlation between PIK-R utilization and students' knowledge ($\rho = 0.926$, $p < 0.001$) and attitudes ($\rho = 0.931$, $p < 0.001$) toward early marriage. **Conclusion:** The use of PIK-R significantly influences adolescents' knowledge and attitudes regarding early marriage.

Keywords: Youth Information and Counseling Center (PIK-R), Early Marriage, Knowledge, Attitudes.

INTRODUCTION

Early marriage remains a significant issue in Indonesia. According to data from the National Development Planning Agency, the prevalence of child marriage declined from 11.2% in 2018 to a targeted 8.74% in 2024. Although this reflects a 3.5% decrease over the past decade, the rate of decline is considered slow and insufficient to address the social, economic, and health impacts associated with early marriage. Indonesia currently ranks tenth globally in terms of child marriage prevalence, with over one

million adolescents having experienced early marriage.^{1,2}

At the regional level, Grobogan Regency in Central Java is among the districts with the highest rate of early marriage in the province. Data show that in recent years, the prevalence of marriage under the age of 21 has consistently exceeded 50%, far surpassing the provincial average. In addition, the number of adolescent pregnancies and requests for marriage dispensation continues to rise, indicating a concerning trend. These issues are influenced by multiple factors, including low levels of

education, cultural norms, economic hardship, and a lack of knowledge about reproductive health.^{3,4}

To address this issue, the Indonesian government enacted Law No. 16 of 2019, which raised the minimum legal age of marriage for women from 16 to 19 years. In addition to this legal reform, the government has implemented educational programs such as the Youth Information and Counseling Center (PIK-R), which aims to improve adolescents' knowledge and attitudes regarding reproductive health, future planning, and responsible family life. However, the effectiveness of PIK-R in reducing early marriage rates has not been widely studied, particularly in high-prevalence areas such as Toroh District, Grobogan Regency.⁵

Given this context, the present study aims to analyze the influence of the Youth Information and Counseling Center (PIK-R) on adolescents' knowledge and attitudes regarding early marriage at SMA Negeri 1 Toroh. The findings are expected to serve as a foundation for strengthening PIK-R programs as a preventive strategy against early marriage among adolescents.

METHODS

This study employed a quantitative approach with a cross-sectional design. The population consisted of students at SMA Negeri 1 Toroh, with a total of 290 respondents selected using simple random sampling, a type of probability sampling technique. The sample size was determined using the Slovin formula, with a margin of error of 5%.

Data were collected using a structured, self-administered questionnaire that included items on knowledge and attitudes toward early marriage. The questionnaire was developed based on existing literature and expert consultation. It used Likert scales to measure attitudes and multiple-choice questions for knowledge assessment.

Prior to the main data collection, the instrument was tested for validity and reliability. Validity was assessed through expert judgment, while reliability testing yielded a Cronbach's Alpha score of >0.7, indicating acceptable internal consistency.

Data analysis was conducted using SPSS version 25. The relationship between PIK-R utilization and adolescents' knowledge and attitudes was analyzed using Spearman's rank correlation test, with a significance level set at $p < 0.05$.

RESULT

Table 1. Frequency Distribution of Respondents Based on Age

Age	Frequency	Percentage(%)
16 years	114	39,3
17 years	148	51,0
18 years	28	9,7
Amount	290	100

Based on table 1, the frequency distribution of respondent characteristics seen from age shows that the majority, 51% (148 respondents), are in the 17 year age category.

Table 2. Frequency Distribution of Respondents Based on gender

Gender	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
Man	124	42,8
Woman	166	57,2
Amount	290	100

Based on table 2, the frequency distribution of respondent characteristics in terms of gender, the majority, 57.2% (166 respondents), are female students.

Table 3. Frequency Distribution of Youth Information and Counseling Centers (PIK R)

Program PIK-R	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Utilise	290	100
No Utilise	0	0
Amount	290	100

Based on Table 3, it can be seen that 100% (290 respondents) of SMA Negeri 1 Toroh utilized the PIK R service.

Table 4. Frequency Distribution of Knowledge About Early Marriage

Knowledge	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Good	268	92,4
Enough	22	7,6
Not enough	0	0
Amount	290	100

Based on Table 4, the majority of respondents (92.4%) demonstrated good knowledge regarding early marriage.

Table 5. Frequency Distribution of Attitudes About Early Marriage

Attitudes	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Positive	275	94,8
Negative	15	5,2
Amount	290	100

Based on Table 5, The majority of respondents (94.8%) expressed a positive attitude regarding early marriage.

Based on table 6. from the cross-tabulation results, it can be described that the majority of respondents who utilized PIK-R, namely 92.4% (268 respondents), had knowledge about early marriage, both.

In Table 7. from the results of the study tested using the Spearman rank analysis test, a correlation coefficient of 0.926 was obtained and a p value (0.000) <0.05, so Ho was rejected and Ha was accepted so that there was an influence of the Youth Information and Counseling Center (PIK R) on adolescent knowledge about early marriage at SMA Negeri 1

Toroh and a correlation coefficient of 0.926 was obtained, meaning that the correlation strength was very strong and the direction of the correlation was positive. From the direction of the positive correlation, it shows that the influence of the Youth Information and Counseling Center (PIK R) on adolescent knowledge about early marriage at SMA Negeri 1 Toroh is said to be in the same direction.

Based on table 8 of the cross-tabulation results, it can be described that most respondents who utilize PIK-R, 94.8% (275 respondents), have a positive attitude. Meanwhile, 5.2% (15 respondents) who utilize PIK-R have a negative attitude.

In Table 9. from the results of the study tested using the Spearman rank analysis test, a correlation coefficient of 0.926 was obtained and a p value (0.000) <0.05, so Ho was rejected and Ha was accepted so that there was an influence of the Youth Information and Counseling Center (PIK R) on adolescent attitudes about early marriage at SMA Negeri 1 Toroh and a correlation coefficient of 0.931 was obtained, meaning that the correlation strength was very strong and the direction of the correlation was positive. From the direction of the positive correlation, it shows that the influence of the Youth Information and Counseling Center (PIK R) on adolescent attitudes about early marriage at SMA Negeri 1 Toroh is said to be in the same direction.

Table 6. Cross Tabulation of the Influence of the Youth Information and Counseling Center (PIK R) on Youth Knowledge about Early Marriage at SMA Negeri 1 Toroh

PIK- R	Teen Knowledge						Amount		P value
	Good		Enough		Not enough		N	%	
	N	%	N	%	N	%			
Utilise	268	92,4	22	7,6	0	0	290	100	0,000
No Utilise	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Amount	268	92,4	22	7,6	0	0	290	100	

Table 7. The Influence of the Youth Information and Counseling Center (PIK R) on Youth Knowledge about Early Marriage at SMA Negeri 1 Toroh

			PIK-R	Knowledge
Spearman's rho	PIK-R	Correlation coefficient	1,000	0,926**
		Sig. (2-tailed)	.	0,000
		N	290	290
Knowledge	Knowledge	Correlation coefficient	0,926**	1,000
		Sig. (2-tailed)	0,000	.
		N	290	290

Table 8. Cross Tabulation of the Influence of the Youth Information and Counseling Center (PIK R) on Youth Attitudes about Early Marriage at SMA Negeri 1 Toroh

PIK-R	Teenagers' Attitudes				Amount		P value
	Positive		Negative		N	%	
	N	%	N	%			
Utilise	275	94,8	15	5,2	290	100	0,000
No Utilise	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Amount	275	94,8	15	5,2	290	100	

Table 9. The Influence of the Youth Information and Counseling Center (PIK R) on Youth Attitudes about Early Marriage at SMA Negeri 1 Toroh.

			PIK R	Attitudes
Spearman's rho	PIK R	Correlation coefficient	1,000	0,931**
		Sig.tailed (2-tailed)	.	0,000
		N	290	290
Sikap	Sikap	Correlation coefficient	0,931**	1,000
		Sig.tailed (2-tailed)	0,000	.
		N	290	290

DISCUSSION

The study found that the majority of adolescents at SMA Negeri 1 Toroh utilize the services of the Youth Information and Counseling Center (PIK-R). This high level of utilization was strongly correlated with both their knowledge and attitudes toward early marriage. Specifically, 92.4% of respondents demonstrated good knowledge, and 94.8% showed a positive attitude—meaning they disagreed with early marriage.

The correlation coefficients were very strong: $\rho = 0.926$ for knowledge and $\rho = 0.931$ for attitude. These findings indicate that access to PIK-R has a meaningful impact on adolescents' understanding of the risks and consequences of early marriage. It also supports the role of PIK-R as an effective

educational and counseling service for adolescents in school settings.

These findings are consistent with those of Ernawati, who reported increased knowledge of reproductive health and early marriage among adolescents after participating in PIK-R. Najalaili confirmed that frequent use of PIK-R services is associated with higher levels of knowledge and more critical attitudes toward early marriage.^{6,7}

However, a small percentage of students in this study still expressed negative attitudes. This aligns with Anjani, who suggested that external factors such as cultural background or personal experience can influence adolescents' perspectives, despite the availability of information. These findings underscore the need for culturally sensitive approaches in health education.⁸

The results align with Lawrence Green's Health Promotion Theory, which identifies three main factors that influence health behavior: Predisposing factors: Knowledge, attitudes, and beliefs—shaped through exposure to programs like PIK-R. Enabling factors: Availability of facilities such as school-based PIK-R services that make it easier for adolescents to access health information. Reinforcing factors: Support from peers, teachers, and families that encourages adolescents to apply what they learn.

Adolescents who engage with PIK-R appear to benefit from this three-pronged influence. Through the structured delivery of information and counseling, they are more likely to develop informed attitudes and behaviors regarding early marriage and reproductive health.⁹

Despite its valuable insights, this study had several limitations: (1) The research schedule was delayed due to coordination issues with the school, affecting data collection. (2) Data processing and thesis writing took longer than expected, which may have impacted the depth of analysis. (3) Access to up-to-date references was limited. (4) A potential social desirability bias may have influenced respondents' answers, especially regarding attitudes toward early marriage, as adolescents may have responded in ways they perceived as socially acceptable.

The findings highlight the importance of sustaining and expanding PIK-R programs in schools. These services play a critical role in shaping adolescents' knowledge and attitudes toward reproductive health. However, future programs should incorporate more personalized and culturally sensitive content to reach students whose values or backgrounds may not align with the general message. In addition, interactive educational strategies could further enhance student engagement and retention of information.

CONCLUSION

The study concludes that the Youth Information and Counseling Center (PIK-R) has a positive influence on adolescents' knowledge and attitudes toward early marriage at SMA Negeri 1 Toroh. Strengthening PIK-R programs in schools can serve as an effective strategy to promote informed health behaviors and prevent early marriage among teenagers.

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