



The correlation between family type and attitudes toward early marriage

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ABSTRACT

Both traditional and modern families face challenges in raising children when the family has a son or daughter reaching adolescence. Adolescence is a period of preparation for adulthood during which adolescents go through several important developmental stages in life; during this time, many adolescents engage in promiscuous behavior, experience unwanted teenage pregnancies, and ultimately enter into early marriages. The purpose of this study was to analyze the correlation between family type and adolescents' attitudes toward early marriage at Al-Irsyad Junior High School in Kraksaan, Probolinggo. This study employed a quantitative approach using a cross-sectional research design. The study population consisted of all 45 eleventh-grade students at Al-Irsyad Junior High School in Kraksaan, Probolinggo. This study employed total sampling, resulting in a sample size of 45 students. Univariate data analysis was conducted using frequency distributions, and bivariate analysis was performed using the chi-square test. Univariate data analysis was conducted using frequency distributions, and bivariate analysis was performed using the chi-square test. Based on the analysis using the chi-square test, the result was $p < 0.019$, indicating a significant correlation between family type and adolescents' attitudes toward early marriage at Al-Irsyad Junior High School in Kraksaan, Probolinggo. Health professionals should provide education on the impacts of early marriage.

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1. Introduction

Early marriage remains a deeply rooted social phenomenon in Indonesia, placing the country among those with some of the highest estimated absolute numbers of child brides globally. According to data from the BKKBN (National Population and Family Planning Board), approximately 6.92 percent of women aged 20–24 in Indonesia were married before the age of 18. The Indonesian government has actually tightened regulations through Law Number 16 of 2019 (a revision of Marriage Law No. 1/1974). This law establishes a uniform minimum marriage age of 19 for both men and women. However, the situation on the ground reveals a high number of applications for marriage dispensations submitted by parents to Religious Courts, seeking to allow their underage children to marry legally (Putri & Agustin, 2026).

This phenomenon is driven by a range of interconnected structural and cultural issues. Data from religious courts indicate that the majority—up to approximately 80%—of applications for marriage dispensations are filed due to unplanned pregnancies resulting from a lack of reproductive health

education. In rural areas, marrying off young daughters is often viewed as a shortcut to alleviating the family's financial burden. Parental concerns regarding premarital sexual activity lead them to choose early marriage for their children as a means of preserving family honor. In some regions, local customs also perpetuate the practice of early marriage. The incidence of early marriage in Probolinggo is also influenced by family structure (Jaka et al., 2026).

The family is the most important, primary, and fundamental setting for children to receive character education, learn exemplary behaviors, and form perceptions of specific objects, including the decision to get married (Sheikhi et al., 2021). Within the family, children learn the behavioral foundations essential for adult life, which are shaped over a relatively long period and influenced by their parents' behavior (Sunita et al., 2026).

Family types in Indonesia consist of traditional and modern families. Traditional families place greater emphasis on the “rukun” teachings, which serve as guidelines for husband-wife interactions, and the division of roles between husband and wife across three domains: decision-making, household management, and child-rearing (Fathia et al., 2023). These roles are flexible in nature; husbands tend to make more decisions, while wives play a greater role in household management and child-rearing. In modern families, work demands arise because both the husband-and-wife work, leading to conflicts over the division of roles between family and work (Yusuf, 2019a).

Both traditional and modern families face challenges in raising children when the family has a son or daughter reaching adolescence. This is a period of preparation for adulthood, during which adolescents go through several important developmental stages in life (Raihana, 2024). In addition to physical and sexual maturation, adolescents also undergo stages leading to social and economic independence, identity formation, the acquisition of skills for adult life, and the ability to negotiate which is why an interest in the opposite sex often emerges during adolescence decisions regarding future marriage (Faharani, 2025). Families play a role in providing proper guidance regarding reproductive health, social interactions, the choice of friends, and attitudes toward marriage (Astuti et al., 2025). Furthermore, family type influences healthy sexual functioning, which plays a vital role in health, happiness, and an improved quality of life. This is considered a prerequisite for changes in individual sexual behavior and is linked to marital satisfaction.

Adolescents' views on marriage itself which are shaped by their social and cultural environments are one of the factors influencing early marriage (Yaqzhan et al., 2025). Adolescents' attitudes toward early marriage are one of the factors influencing the prevalence of early marriage (Sari et al., 2025). Early marriage refers to a marital union between a couple where one or both partners have not yet reached the legal age of marriage or are not yet adults. One of the physical consequences of early marriage is premature birth, as the mother's uterus is not yet prepared to carry a pregnancy to full term (Gargari et al., 2021). In addition to physical impacts, early marriage also leads to psychological, emotional, and social problems that result in suicide among adolescent girls (Utoo et al., 2021). Given these impacts, preconception—or pre-pregnancy—care is necessary as an approach to health promotion (Jusoh et al., 2021).

According to the Central Statistics Agency (BPS), there were 25.52 million cases of child marriage in Indonesia in 2023 (Fardiansyah et al., 2025). In Probolinggo Regency, 892 cases of child marriage were recorded in 2025. Researchers conducted a preliminary study in November 2025 at Al-Irsyad Junior High School in Kraksaan, Probolinggo, with 10 respondents 5 male and 5 female students in the 11th grade. All respondents were interviewed regarding their knowledge of marriage, whether they had a desire to marry young, and whether any of their parents or predecessors had married at a young age.

A study by Malika et al. (2024) found that adolescent girls have a positive attitude toward early marriage because they possess a good level of knowledge (Malika et al., 2024). The results of a study by Adiyanti et al. (2025) also showed that adolescents have a positive attitude toward early marriage when they possess a good level of knowledge (Adhiyanti et al., 2025). This study shares a commonality with previous research in that both examine adolescents' attitudes toward early marriage. A fundamental difference from previous studies is that most prior studies focused exclusively on adolescent girls,

whereas this study includes both adolescent boys and girls to ensure more generalizable results. This study highlights the family types among these adolescents and their attitudes toward early marriage, with the hope that adolescents will adopt a positive attitude toward early marriage namely, by postponing marriage until they are physically and mentally ready to marry. The objective of this study was to analyze the correlation between family type and adolescents' attitudes toward early marriage at Al-Irsyad Junior High School in Kraksaan, Probolinggo. Considering the background described above, the researcher is interested in conducting a study titled "The Correlation between Family Type and Adolescents Attitudes Toward Early Marriage at Al-Irsyad Junior High School, Kraksaan, Probolinggo. "A recommendation for this study is that parents should equip their adolescent children with knowledge so they are able to delay early marriage. Healthcare professionals should provide education or counseling to adolescents and their parents regarding the impacts of early marriage.

2. Methods

This research has undergone an ethical review conducted by the Health Research Ethics Committee of Hafshawaty Zainul Hasan University with certificate number: 309/KEPK-UNHASA/V/2026. This study employed a cross-sectional research design. The population of this study consisted of all 45 eleventh-grade students at Al-Irsyad Junior High School in Kraksaan, Probolinggo. Total sampling was used, resulting in a sample size of 45 students. The research instrument used was a questionnaire. The questionnaire consisted of sections for general data and sections for specific data. The research process began with coordination with the principal of Al-Irsyad Al-Islamiyah Junior High School in Kraksaan, Probolinggo. This coordination was conducted to inform the principal of the study's objectives and to recruit the number of respondents to be included in the study according to the inclusion criteria. The principal assisted with the respondent recruitment process and obtained informed consent from prospective respondents. Prospective respondents who agreed to sign the informed consent form were asked to attend the research session on the specified date and time. Respondents who attended the research session were briefed on the purpose of the study and the procedures they would follow during the research process. The researcher explained that any respondent who felt uncomfortable participating in the research could withdraw at any time. Respondents who continued to participate in the research process were given a questionnaire containing general and specific data. After the respondents finished filling out the questionnaire, they were given a souvenir as a token of appreciation. The researcher compiled and analyzed the research data. The data analysis technique used for univariate variables was frequency distribution, while the chi-square test was used for bivariate variables.

3. Results and Discussion

Results

Table 1.
Frequency Distribution of Adolescent Characteristics

Adolescent Characteristics	Frequency (F)	Percentage (%)
Gender		
Girl	26	57,78
Boy	19	42,22
Age		
12 y.o.	20	44,43
13 y.o.	10	28,88
14 y.o.	15	33,32

Table 2.
Family Type Frequency Distribution

Family Type	Frequency (F)	Percentage (%)
Extended Family Nuclear Family	21	6,66
Single Parent Family Three Generation	7	5,56

Family Type	Frequency (F)	Percentage (%)
	4	,89
	13	8,89

Table 3.
Frequency Distribution of Adolescent Characteristics

Adolescent Attitudes	Frequency (F)	Percentage (%)
Positif	28	62,22
Negatif	17	37,78

Table 4.
Cross-Tabulation of the Correlation between Family Type and Adolescents' Attitudes Toward Early Marriage at Al-Irsyad Junior High School, Kraksaan, Probolinggo

Irsyad Junior High School, Kraksaan, Probolinggo							
Family Type	Attitudes				Total		P value
	Positif		Negatif				
	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	
Extended Family	12	26,67	9	20,00	21	46,66	0,019
Nuclear Family	6	13,33	1	2,22	7	15,56	
Single Parent Family	2	4,44	2	4,44	4	8,89	
Three Generation	6	13,33	7	15,55	13	28,89	

Based on an analysis using the chi-square test, the result was $p < 0.019$, indicating a significant correlation between family type and adolescents' attitudes toward early marriage at Al-Irsyad Junior High School in Kraksaan, Probolinggo.

Discussion

The results of the study revealed that among respondents at Al-Irsyad Junior High School in Kraksaan, 57.78% of the adolescents were female. According to Simbolon (2022), girls find it easier to express themselves regarding social relationships and friendships, which leads them to have a greater desire to learn and behave well. Female adolescents tend to have a better understanding of the minimum legal age for marriage (PUP) compared to males. Adolescent girls tend to experience reproductive anxiety (Okonofua & Ntoimo, 2026). At the same time, they also harbor intentions regarding childbearing and future family planning (Liao et al., 2026). They face distinct social pressures concerning fertility, shaped by a variety of cultural expectations, economic factors, and personal goals (Ngwenya et al., 2026). The most common age is 16 years old, accounting for 52.3%. According to Puspitaningrum et al. (2022), the ages of 12–14 mark a stage of physical changes during which adolescents become quickly attracted to the opposite sex and are easily aroused by mere touch.

The majority of respondents 46.66% belong to extended families. An extended family, commonly referred to as a large family, consists of grandparents, uncles, aunts, and nieces or nephews. Extended families have a very significant dual impact on shaping adolescents' attitudes toward early marriage both as a driving force that reinforces positive attitudes toward marrying young and as a protective barrier against the development of negative or rejecting attitudes (Yusuf, 2019b). The presence of grandparents, uncles, or aunts in the same household or immediate surroundings often reinforces traditional norms.

If the extended family views marrying young as an achievement or a way to uphold the family's honor, adolescents will internalize that value and regard early marriage as normal or even noble. Constant criticism or questions from extended family members about a potential spouse can make adolescents feel anxious, leading them to become more accepting of marriage at a young age. If the extended family has guidelines against early marriage because they understand the consequences, they will educate adolescents to delay marriage (Manu et al., 2026). Older members of the extended family can provide moral guidance and explain the real risks to reproductive health, mental health, and economic stability resulting from early marriage. This encourages adolescents to think critically and reject early marriage. A protective extended family community minimizes the risk of promiscuity among

adolescents, which is often the main trigger for out-of-wedlock pregnancies and leads to forced marriages. A supportive extended family will motivate adolescents to pursue their dreams and complete their formal education first rather than thinking about marriage (Sunita et al., 2026).

The research findings showed that adolescents held a positive attitude toward early marriage. The researchers assumed that the positive responses from the participants were due to the fact that these adolescents did not agree with early marriage. Adolescents recognize the importance of PUP education as a means of addressing early marriage; furthermore, they strongly agree that marrying before the age of 20 carries risks such as premature birth and medical complications like miscarriage and low birth weight (Sunita et al., 2026).

4. Conclusion

The results of this study revealed that there was a significant correlation between family type and adolescents' attitudes toward early marriage at Al-Irsyad Junior High School in Kraksaan, Probolinggo. This study highlights that the family is not merely a biological unit but a primary agent of socialization. A practical implication regarding parenting styles is the need for families to improve the quality of their communication. Democratic, two-way communication has been shown to foster openness and critical thinking among adolescents, leading them to adopt a negative stance or reject the idea of early marriage. Parenting practices are central to optimizing the family's socialization function. In communities characterized by strong extended family structures, cultural and traditions often exert significant influence; consequently, early marriage prevention programs must engage respected traditional or religious leaders to facilitate a shift in values. For health and education services, there is a need for home-context-aware adolescent counseling programs, wherein school guidance counselors and community health center (Puskesmas) staff provide preventive counseling tailored to the specific family dynamics of the students. Adolescents from disharmonious or dysfunctional families typically require additional psychological support to ensure they do not view early marriage as a solution to their domestic problems.

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