



## THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN EARLY MARRIAGE AND PARENTING STYLES FOR CHILDREN AGED 3-5 YEARS

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**ABSTRACT:** This study aims to investigate the link between early marriage and parenting styles among parents of children aged 3-5 years in Awang Village, Central Lombok, Indonesia. This study employs an observational analytic design with a cross-sectional approach. Data were gathered from 42 mothers who married before the age of 20. The research instrument is a questionnaire to collect information about socio-demographic and parenting style information, categorized as democratic, authoritarian, and permissive. Data analysis was conducted in two stages: univariate and bivariate analysis. The results of this study are that (1) a significant association between early marriage and authoritarian parenting styles, with 55% of mothers who married at or below 15 years old displaying authoritarian behavior, and 80% exhibiting permissive tendencies, (2) democratic parenting was exclusive to mothers who married at 16 years or older. Higher education levels were linked to democratic parenting, (3) a significant relationship between early marriage and authoritarian parenting, proven by statistical analysis using Fisher's Exact Test ( $p = 0.001$ ). The results suggest that early marriage leads to less supportive and more controlling parenting practices, negatively impacting child development. Thus, addressing socio-economic factors and improving educational opportunities are vital to mitigating the adverse effects of early marriage on parenting styles and child development.

**Keywords:** early marriage, parenting styles, child development

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### INTRODUCTION

The issue of early marriage in Indonesia remains a significant social concern, especially in rural areas. The Population Research Center at UNPAD, in collaboration with BKKBN West Java, reported alarming rates of early marriages in coastal regions: 36.7% of first marriages occur between the ages of 12-14, 56.7% between 15-19 years, and only 6.6% between 20-24 years (Radifah, 2009). These statistics underscore socio-cultural factors, such as low educational attainment and entrenched cultural practices, that perpetuate early marriage. Despite legislative frameworks like the Marriage Law No. 1/1974, which sets the minimum marriage age at 19 for men and 16 for women, early marriage remains prevalent (UU No 1/1974, 1974).

Research indicates profound consequences of early marriage in Indonesia, including increased divorce likelihood, reproductive health risks, and higher maternal and infant mortality rates (Nurfazriah et al., 2024; Puspasari &



Pawitaningtyas, 2020). Additionally, early marriage disrupts educational attainment, with only a small percentage of adolescents continuing their education post-marriage (Puspasari & Pawitaningtyas, 2020). The negative impacts also extend to increased domestic violence rates, with many adolescent girls facing abuse. Furthermore, the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the issue, driven by economic factors, cultural norms, and governmental policies (Selanno & Kristianingsih, 2023).

Despite efforts to address early marriage, the phenomenon persists, particularly in rural Indonesian communities. In 2022, Indonesia reported over 50,000 cases of early marriage, reflecting the scale of the problem (Suleman et al., 2023). Data from the Central Statistics Agency indicate that thousands of marriage dispensations are sought annually, signifying the ongoing challenge in curbing this practice (Retnowulandari et al., 2024). Legal frameworks like the Indonesian Child's Act and inconsistent enforcement of laws aimed at preventing early marriages further complicate efforts to combat this issue (Aditya & Waddington, 2021; Lathifah et al., 2022).

Addressing early marriage requires multifaceted interventions, including educational initiatives, community empowerment, and robust legal enforcement. Education is pivotal, as studies have shown a strong association between low educational levels and early marriage (Rofita et al., 2022). Empowering health cadres and implementing community-based interventions can address underlying causes and prevent child marriages (Antarsih et al., 2023). A comprehensive approach combining education, legal reform, and community engagement is essential for reducing early marriage prevalence and mitigating their adverse effects on young girls and broader society.

The impact of early marriage on parenting styles and child development is an area of growing research interest. Early marriage disrupts the accumulation of human resources due to school dropouts, exclusion from the labor market, and health issues stemming from early childbearing (James & Tabia, 2022). These disruptions significantly affect parenting practices, influencing how parents interact with and raise their children. The relationship between early marriage and parenting styles, particularly in parents who marry young, has been linked to various developmental outcomes in children (Nabila et al., 2023).

Parenting styles profoundly shape children's development and behavior. The authoritative style, characterized by high warmth and support combined with clear boundaries, is considered the most effective (Pane et al., 2024). In contrast, authoritarian, permissive, and uninvolved styles each have distinct impacts on children. Authoritarian parenting, with its strict rules and low responsiveness, can lead to increased anxiety and lower self-esteem in children (Arafat et al., 2022). Permissive parenting, marked by high warmth but low control, may result in children struggling with self-discipline and boundaries (Firoz & Alim, 2023). Uninvolved parenting, characterized by emotional detachment, can adversely affect children's emotional well-being and behavior (Riza & Daulay, 2023).

Studies have consistently shown that authoritative parenting, which balances warmth and control, promotes positive outcomes in children's academic and social development (Awiszus et al., 2022). Conversely, other styles can have detrimental



effects, such as increased anxiety from authoritarian parenting and lack of self-discipline from permissive parenting. Understanding these dynamics is crucial for developing interventions that promote healthy parenting practices, especially in contexts where early marriage is prevalent.

Despite extensive research on the impacts of early marriage and parenting styles, gaps remain in understanding how early marriage specifically affects parenting practices and child development in different cultural contexts. While studies have highlighted the adverse outcomes associated with early marriage, such as educational disruption and health risks (Puspasari & Pawitaningtyas, 2020), there is a need for more nuanced research that explores the intersection of early marriage, parenting styles, and child development.

Previous research has primarily focused on the immediate consequences of early marriage, such as reproductive health and domestic violence (Nurfazriah et al., 2024; Puspasari & Pawitaningtyas, 2020). However, less attention has been given to how these marriages influence long-term parenting practices and child outcomes. Moreover, existing studies often lack a comprehensive analysis of how early marriage affects different parenting styles and the subsequent impact on children's social-emotional development and academic performance. Thus, this study aims to fill these gaps by exploring the relationship between early marriage and parenting styles among parents in rural Indonesian communities.

This study is novel in its focused examination of the relationship between early marriage and parenting styles in a rural Indonesian setting. By addressing the gap in existing literature concerning long-term parenting practices and their effects on young children in early marriage settings, this research provides new insights that can guide policy and intervention strategies. The context-specific approach adds to the understanding of how cultural and socio-economic factors influence these dynamics, which has been underexplored in prior research. This study's novelty lies in its potential to reveal intricate details about the intersection of early marriage and parenting, contributing to a more nuanced understanding of the issue.

The scope of this research encompasses the phenomenon of early marriage in remote villages, specifically focusing on the incidence rates of early marriage in Awang Village, Lombok Tengah, Nusa Tenggara Barat, Indonesia. It examines the parenting styles applied to children aged 3-5 years by mothers who experienced early marriage. By utilizing both quantitative and qualitative methods, the study aims to provide a comprehensive analysis of the relationships and outcomes associated with early marriage and parenting practices. This focused approach aims to yield actionable insights that can inform local and national policies aimed at reducing early marriage and supporting affected families in Indonesia.

## **METHOD**

This study employs an observational analytic design with a cross-sectional approach. The population consists of mothers who married under the age of 20 and have children aged 3-5 years, with a sample of 42 mothers meeting these criteria. Nonprobability sampling with a total sampling method was used. A questionnaire with closed-ended questions covering sociodemographic data, such as age, occupation, and number of children, served as the research instrument.



The data collection procedure began with obtaining informed consent from all mothers included in the sample. Those who agreed to participate completed the questionnaire provided by the researcher. Data for the independent variable (age at marriage) was collected through a single question. Data for the dependent variable (parenting style) was gathered through 10 multiple-choice questions. Responses were grouped to determine the parenting style: democratic, authoritarian, or permissive.

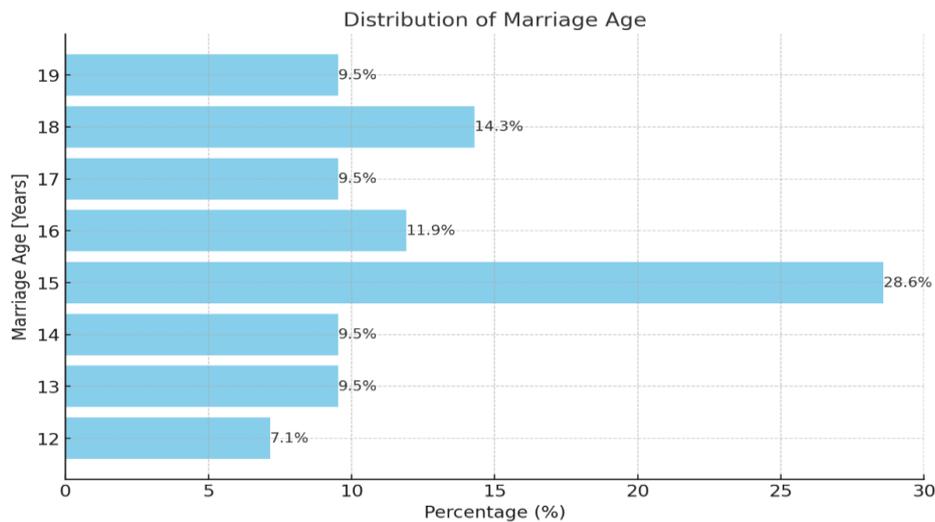
The study was conducted in Awang Village, Pujut Subdistrict, Central Lombok Regency, from April 27 to May 12, 2013. The data collection involved distributing questionnaire to parents who married early and have children aged 3-5 years. Respondents completed the questionnaire, which included sociodemographic data, questions about marriage age, and parenting style. The collected data were then processed and analyzed to identify the relationship between early marriage and parenting style. Parenting style is categorized into three types based on the respondents' answers: democratic, authoritarian, and permissive. Data were analyzed to determine the frequency distribution and percentage of each parenting style category.

Data analysis was conducted in two stages: univariate and bivariate analysis. Univariate analysis described the characteristics of each research variable using mean, median, and standard deviation values, along with frequency distribution and percentages for categorical data. Bivariate analysis examined the relationship between early marriage and parenting style using the Chi-Square statistical test. Ethical considerations, including informed consent, anonymity, and confidentiality of respondents' information, were strictly adhered to throughout the study.

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

### *Sociodemographic Respondents*

This study involved 42 respondents with various sociodemographic characteristics, including age, age at marriage, education, occupation, and parenting style. These characteristics will be elaborated in Figure 1 and Table 1.



**Figure 1. Distribution of Marriage Ages**



The chart shows the distribution of marriage ages, with the majority at age 15 (28.6%), followed by age 18 (14.3%) and 16 (11.9%). The percentage of marriages at very young ages (12-14 years) is relatively low. This data reflects a significant tendency towards early marriage in certain age groups.

**Table 1. Sociodemographic of Respondents (N=42)**

Characteristics	Category	N	Percentage
Age	<=20 Years	22	52%
	21-25 Years	4	10%
	>=26 Years	16	38%
Education	No Schooling	4	10%
	Primary School	15	36%
	Middle School	12	29%
	High School	11	26%
Occupation	Housewife	13	31%
	Trader	9	21%
	Private Sector	10	24%
	Laborer	5	12%
	Farmer	5	12%
Parenting Style	Democratic	7	17%
	Authoritarian	20	48%
	Permissive	15	36%

Data in Table 1 presents various sociodemographic characteristics of 42 respondents. The majority of respondents are aged  $\leq 20$  years, accounting for 52%, indicating that over half of the surveyed population are young individuals. Conversely, only 10% of respondents are aged between 21-25 years, the smallest percentage among the age categories. In terms of education, most respondents have only completed primary school (36%), while 10% have no schooling at all. Regarding occupation, the majority are housewives (31%), followed by private sector workers (24%) and traders (21%). Concerning parenting style, most respondents adopt an authoritarian style (48%), while the democratic style is the least common (17%). Data in Tabel 1, reflects that the majority of respondents are young individuals with low education levels, many of whom work as housewives and tend to use an authoritarian parenting style. These findings are important for understanding the sociodemographic context in a broader study on marriage patterns and parenting styles.

Child marriage, defined as marriage before the age of 18, has significant implications for child-rearing patterns. Research indicates that a consistent minimum marriage age of 18 or older in national laws is associated with lower rates of child marriage (Arthur et al., 2018). Early marriage has been linked to adopting authoritarian parenting styles, which can negatively impact child development (Nabila et al., 2023). This is evident in the current study, where the majority of respondents who married early exhibit authoritarian parenting styles. Furthermore, physical maturity in marriage is considered essential for fulfilling the external needs of marriage, including child-rearing (Holik & Nurcholis, 2023).



Studies have shown that child marriage rates increase significantly after the age of 14, with notable acceleration between ages 15-17 (Liang et al., 2021). Early marriages are associated with disadvantageous strategies for child rearing and lower quality housing (Harton et al., 2023). Additionally, child marriage has been linked to poorer health outcomes, difficulties in daily activities, and reduced agency among women (Groot et al., 2018). The findings of this study align with these observations, as respondents who married early often face similar challenges, including adopting less favorable child-rearing practices.

The findings underscore the profound impact of early marriage on parenting styles and child development. The prevalence of authoritarian parenting among those who married early suggests a significant influence of early marriage on child-rearing practices. Authoritarian parenting, characterized by high demands and low responsiveness, can hinder children's emotional and social development. This reinforces the need for interventions that address the underlying causes of early marriage, such as poverty, low education levels, and socio-cultural norms.

In societies where child marriage is prevalent, contradictions often exist between formal laws prohibiting child marriage and customary practices that accept early marriage (Johnson et al., 2019). Factors such as poverty, socio-cultural norms, and parental education levels contribute to the perpetuation of child marriage (Junaedi et al., 2022). Child marriage not only affects the physical and mental health of girls but also deprives them of educational opportunities, leading to human rights violations (Shabbar, 2022). These findings highlight the need for comprehensive policies and community-based programs that promote education and economic opportunities for girls, thereby reducing the incidence of child marriage.

Moreover, the study implications extend to public health and social policy. Early marriage and the resultant parenting styles can have long-term effects on family well-being and societal health outcomes. Marrying at 18 or later has been found to protect against physical intimate partner violence, while very early child marriage before age 15 poses a significant risk factor (Yount et al., 2016). Implementing and enforcing legislation that establishes a minimum marriage age of 18 or older is crucial for mitigating the negative effects of child marriage on child-rearing practices. Community education programs that challenge socio-cultural norms supporting child marriage can foster environments where children can grow and develop in healthier and more supportive family structures.

### ***Types of Parenting Styles***

This study involved 42 respondents about types of parenting styles. Data of types of parenting styles is presented in Table 2.

**Table 2. Types of Parenting Styles (N=42)**

<b>Characteristics</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
Parenting Style	Democratic	7	17%
	Authoritarian	20	48%
	Permissive	15	36%

Data in Table 1 presents the study reveals that among the 42 respondents, authoritarian parenting is the most prevalent style, employed by 20 individuals



(48%). This is followed by permissive parenting, practiced by 15 respondents (36%), and democratic parenting, used by 7 respondents (17%). These findings indicate a significant inclination towards authoritarian parenting among the respondents, suggesting a preference for strict rules, discipline, and control in child-rearing practices. In contrast, permissive and democratic parenting styles, which emphasize warmth and open communication, are less commonly adopted.

In traditional eras, authoritarian parenting was commonly practiced, emphasizing strict rules, obedience, and discipline. Studies such as Tiwari (2022) highlight that authoritarian parenting was prevalent in traditional societies as a means to instill obedience in children. This style often involved parents making decisions without input from children, focusing on control and conformity. This historical context aligns with the findings of the current study, where a significant number of respondents still adhere to authoritarian parenting practices. The persistence of this style may reflect enduring cultural values and norms that prioritize authority and discipline in child-rearing.

In contrast, democratic parenting, characterized by open communication, mutual respect, and shared decision-making, has been associated with modern parenting practices. Chang et al. (2011) suggest that there has been a shift towards democratic parenting styles in contemporary times, reflecting non-traditional, egalitarian attitudes about parenting. However, the lower prevalence of democratic parenting among the respondents in this study indicates that such modern practices have not fully replaced traditional authoritarian methods. This disparity highlights the ongoing transition and varying adoption rates of democratic parenting across different communities and cultural settings.

Permissive parenting, characterized by lenient rules, high warmth, and low control, has also been observed in both traditional and modern eras. Sharabany et al. (2008) suggest that the traditional authoritarian parenting style has gradually been replaced by the permissive style, especially among more educated and urban parents in Arab society. The findings of this study show a moderate adoption of permissive parenting, indicating a blend of traditional and modern influences. The shift towards permissive parenting among some respondents may reflect changes in educational levels and urbanization, as well as a move towards more lenient and emotionally supportive parenting approaches.

The findings of this study highlight the significant impact of parenting styles on child development and family dynamics. The prevalence of authoritarian parenting among the respondents suggests that many children are raised in environments characterized by strict rules and high control. While effective in ensuring obedience, this parenting style can hinder the development of social and emotional skills in children. Studies have shown that children raised by authoritarian parents may struggle with issues such as low self-esteem, anxiety, and poor social skills (Deković & Janssens, 1992). Therefore, the high prevalence of this style underscores the need for educational programs that promote more balanced and supportive parenting practices.

The moderate adoption of permissive parenting indicates a shift towards more lenient and emotionally supportive child-rearing practices. While permissive parenting can foster close parent-child relationships and high levels of emotional



warmth, it may also lead to challenges in setting boundaries and maintaining discipline. Children raised in permissive environments may struggle with self-regulation and exhibit higher levels of behavioral problems (Putri et al., 2017). These findings suggest that while there is a move towards more supportive parenting practices, there is also a need for guidance on balancing warmth with appropriate levels of control and structure.

The lower prevalence of democratic parenting among the respondents suggests that this modern, egalitarian approach to parenting is still emerging within the community. Democratic parenting has been associated with positive child outcomes, including higher levels of self-esteem, better social skills, and improved academic performance (Kusmawati et al., 2023). Promoting democratic parenting practices could have significant benefits for child development and family well-being. Interventions that educate parents on the benefits of open communication, mutual respect, and shared decision-making could help increase the adoption of democratic parenting styles, leading to healthier family dynamics and better outcomes for children.

Overall, understanding the distribution and impact of different parenting styles within this community provides valuable insights for developing targeted interventions and support systems. By addressing the specific needs and challenges associated with authoritarian, permissive, and democratic parenting, policymakers and practitioners can promote healthier and more supportive environments for child development. This approach not only benefits individual families but also contributes to the overall well-being and social cohesion of the community.

### ***The Relationship Between Early Marriage and Types of Parenting Styles***

The table shows the distribution of parenting styles among different categories of age at marriage, education levels, and occupations. For age at marriage, 55% of those who married at or below 15 years old use an authoritarian parenting style, while 80% of them also use a permissive style. In contrast, 100% of those who married at or above 16 years old use a democratic parenting style. Regarding education, those with no schooling predominantly adopt authoritarian and permissive styles (10% and 13% respectively), while individuals with high school education show a higher inclination towards democratic parenting (57%).

For occupations, housewives, traders, and farmers show a diverse range of parenting styles, with housewives predominantly using permissive styles (33%) and traders showing an equal preference for authoritarian and permissive styles (33%). The results of the analysis of relationship early marriage and types of parenting Styles are presented in Table 3.

**Table 3. The Relationship Early Marriage and Types of Parenting Styles (N=42)**

Characteristics	Parental Parenting Style						Sig*
	Democratic		Authoritarian		Permissive		
	N	%	N	%	N	%	
Age Marriage							
≤15 Years	0	0%	11	55%	12	80%	0,001
≥16 Years	7	100%	9	45%	3	20%	



Characteristics	Parental Parenting Style						Sig*
	Democratic		Authoritarian		Permissive		
	N	%	N	%	N	%	
Education							
No Schooling	0	0%	2	10%	2	13%	0,084
Primary School	0	0%	7	35%	8	53%	
Middle School	3	43%	5	25%	4	27%	
High School	4	57%	6	30%	1	7%	
Occupation							
Housewife	2	29%	6	30%	5	33%	0,536
Trader	1	14%	3	15%	5	33%	
Private Sector	3	43%	6	30%	1	7%	
Laborer	0	0%	2	10%	3	20%	
Farmer	1	14%	3	15%	1	7%	

\*Fisher's Exact Test

Child marriage, defined as marriage before the age of 18, has profound implications for child-rearing patterns and child development. Research consistently shows that a minimum marriage age of 18 or older in national laws is associated with lower rates of child marriage (Arthur et al., 2018). This study's findings align with this, showing that early marriage is linked to adopting authoritarian parenting styles, which can negatively impact child development (Nabila et al., 2023). The prevalence of authoritarian parenting among those who married early underscores the need for policies enforcing minimum marriage age laws.

The acceleration of child marriage rates after age 14, with significant increases between ages 15-17, aligns with studies showing early marriages are associated with disadvantageous strategies for child-rearing and lower quality housing (Harton et al., 2023). Additionally, child marriage has been linked to poorer health outcomes, difficulties in daily activities, and reduced agency among women (Groot et al., 2018). These findings are supported by the high percentage of authoritarian parenting among early marriages in this study, indicating a cycle of socio-economic disadvantages perpetuated through early marriage and strict parenting practices.

Moreover, the contradictions between formal laws prohibiting child marriage and customary practices that accept early marriage, as highlighted by Johnson et al. (2019), resonate with this study's findings. Factors such as poverty, socio-cultural norms, and parental education levels contribute significantly to the perpetuation of child marriage (Junaedi et al. (2022)). The data indicate that those with lower educational levels are more likely to marry early and adopt less nurturing parenting styles, further emphasizing the need for comprehensive socio-economic interventions.

Research by Super & Harkness (1999) and Roopnarine & Jin (2016) underscores the role of social structures and cultural contexts in shaping parenting styles and beliefs about child-rearing within families. This aligns with the study's findings that authoritarian and permissive parenting styles are prevalent among those with lower education and early marriage, suggesting that these social structures deeply



influence parenting practices. The interplay between social norms and parenting emphasizes the need for culturally sensitive interventions that address both social and economic factors.

Parental education, as emphasized by Nakao et al. (2000), is a key determinant of parenting patterns and child outcomes. The educational level of parents influences their child-rearing practices, including disciplinary approaches, communication styles, and involvement in their children's education and well-being. This study's findings that democratic parenting is more prevalent among those with higher education levels further support this notion. Enhancing educational opportunities for parents can significantly improve parenting practices and child outcomes.

The findings from this study underscore the significant impact of early marriage on parenting styles and child development. The prevalence of authoritarian parenting among those who married early suggests that many children are raised in environments characterized by strict rules and high control. This parenting style, while effective in ensuring obedience, can hinder the development of social and emotional skills in children. The statistical analysis, particularly the Fisher's Exact Test, shows a significant association between early marriage and authoritarian parenting styles (Exact Sig. = 0.001). This reinforces the need for interventions that address the underlying causes of early marriage, such as poverty and socio-cultural norms, to promote more supportive and effective parenting practices.

The significant adoption of permissive parenting among respondents with lower education levels and early marriages also warrants attention. While permissive parenting can foster close parent-child relationships and high levels of emotional warmth, it often lacks the necessary boundaries and discipline, leading to challenges in self-regulation and higher levels of behavioral problems in children (Qin et al., 2022). These findings highlight the need for educational programs that help parents balance warmth with appropriate levels of control and structure, ensuring better developmental outcomes for children. The study's statistical analysis (Pearson Chi-Square = 12.331,  $p = 0.002$ ) confirms the significant relationship between educational levels and parenting styles.

Moreover, the lower prevalence of democratic parenting, despite its benefits, suggests a substantial gap in adopting this supportive and effective parenting style. Democratic parenting is associated with higher levels of self-esteem, better social skills, and improved academic performance in children (Kusmawati et al., 2023). Promoting democratic parenting practices through community-based education and support programs could significantly enhance child development and family well-being. This approach not only benefits individual families but also contributes to the overall well-being and social cohesion of the community. The study's findings indicate that none of the respondents with no schooling adopt democratic parenting, highlighting the critical role of education in fostering supportive parenting practices.

Understanding the distribution and impact of different parenting styles is crucial for developing targeted interventions and support systems. Policymakers and practitioners can use these insights to promote healthier and more supportive



environments for child development. By addressing the specific needs and challenges associated with authoritarian, permissive, and democratic parenting, it is possible to foster positive parent-child relationships and enhance the developmental outcomes for children, ultimately contributing to a more resilient and thriving community.

Furthermore, the interaction between social structure and family dynamics influences parenting patterns, impacting child-rearing practices and child development. Research by Super & Harkness (1999) and Roopnarine & Jin (2016) highlights how social structures and cultural contexts shape parenting styles and beliefs about child-rearing within families. This aligns with the study's findings that authoritarian and permissive parenting styles are prevalent among those with lower education and early marriage, suggesting that these social structures deeply influence parenting practices. The interplay between social norms and parenting emphasizes the need for culturally sensitive interventions that address both social and economic factors.

Community resources and social capital play a significant role in shaping parenting practices. Access to support networks, community services, and socioeconomic resources significantly shapes the quality of parenting and the overall family environment (Lee & Son, 2012). Strengthening these support systems can mitigate some of the adverse effects associated with early marriage and low educational attainment, promoting healthier parenting practices and better child outcomes. By integrating these multifaceted approaches, interventions can be more effective in addressing the complex issues surrounding early marriage and parenting styles.

Case studies from countries with low rates of child marriage and good parenting practices, such as those discussed by Simbolon et al. (2024) regarding infant and young child feeding (IYCF) practices in Indonesia, can provide practical guidelines for improving parenting. Additionally, policies in Austria and the Czech Republic supporting families through flexible parental leave and encouraging father involvement in child-rearing (Sobotka, 2021) could be adopted to improve parenting practices in Indonesia.

Lastly, understanding the role of parental education in shaping parenting patterns is crucial. Studies by Nakao et al. (2000) and Dong & Zhang (2015) emphasize the positive impact of parental education on child-rearing practices. Enhancing educational opportunities for parents, especially in communities with high rates of early marriage, can lead to significant improvements in parenting practices and child outcomes. Interventions that focus on increasing parental education and providing access to resources can help break the cycle of early marriage and its associated negative impacts, fostering a healthier and more supportive environment for children to thrive.

## **CONCLUSION**

Based on the result of study, can be concluded that (1) there is a significant association between between early marriage and authoritarian parenting styles, which can negatively impact child development. This emphasizes the importance of policies and interventions aimed at delaying the age of marriage and promoting



more supportive parenting practices. (2) parents with higher education levels were more likely to adopt democratic parenting styles, which are associated with better developmental outcomes for children. This emphasizes the importance of educational programs and policies that enhance parental education to improve child-rearing practices. (3) the interaction between social structures and family dynamics plays a critical role in shaping parenting styles. Factors such as socio-economic status, cultural norms, and access to community resources significantly impact how parents raise their children. Thus, by understanding the complex interplay between early marriage, parental education, and social structures, targeted interventions can be developed to promote healthier parenting practices and better developmental outcomes for children.

### RECOMMENDATION

Future research should (1) explore the long-term impacts of early marriage on child development and family dynamics, focusing on diverse cultural and socio-economic contexts. Longitudinal studies can provide deeper insights into how early marriage influences parenting styles over time and the subsequent effects on children's social, emotional, and cognitive development. (2) investigate the effectiveness of various interventions aimed at delaying the age of marriage and promoting supportive parenting practices. Evaluating programs that enhance parental education and provide socio-economic support will help identify the most effective strategies for improving child-rearing practices and outcomes in communities with high rates of early marriage.

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