DECISION MAKING TO DELAY MARRIAGE OF WOMEN IN EARLY ADULT PHASE

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ABSTRACT

Delaying marriage is a phenomenon that contradicts with the task of early adult development, namely marriage. This goes through a complicated decision-making process, especially when entering the age of 30 years. The purpose of this research is to study about the decision making process to delay marriage in women in the early adult phase. This study uses qualitative research methods with a case study approach. Data collection is done through semi-structured interviews with two 35-year-old informants, working and having a lover. The results of this study are postponement of marriage carried out through a form of stages of the decision making namely problem identification, information search and data analysis, making policy alternatives, selecting an alternative, implementing decisions and monitoring and evaluating the results of implementation. Decision making is also influenced by cultural factors, social factors, personal factors and psychological factors. The conclusion of this study is that the decision to postpone marriage taken by the two informants is the best decision before starting the marriage life because it considers the impact faced. Keywords: Decision Making; Delay Marriage; Early Adult Women.

INTRODUCTION

Humans are born with tasks that must be done at each stage of development, starting from the phase of infants, children, adolescents, early adults, middle adulthood to late adulthood. The stages of development that make humans as social beings and build interpersonal relationships with others which is in the early adult phase (Agusdwitanti et al., 2015).

Early adulthood starts at the age of 18 to 40 and has some important tasks that are realized based on the expectations of the community, namely getting a job, choosing a spouse, having a new life with a husband or wife, building a family, raising and guiding children, managing a household and start taking responsibility as a good citizen. Having a new life with a husband or wife in other words, namely getting married when entering the early adult phase is one of the core stages in human development (Hurlock, 2003).

The National Population and Family Planning Board/ BKKBN (2017) explains about the ideal age that is biologically and psychologically matured is 20-25 years for women, then aged 25-30 years for men. The age range in the early adult phase is considered the best for starting marriage life because it is mature enough and able to think on an average adult basis.
In fact, not everyone who has entered the early adult phase is married, because there are some individuals who are still delaying it. Unmarried status in the early adult phase is a phenomenon that contradicts with the developmental tasks that must be completed, namely to start marriage life.

In a gender perspective, the demand for marriage to women is heavier than men because of the cultural inclination of Indonesian society which has made women encouraged to become mothers and wives in a family to be fully valued as members of the community (Kumalasari, in Septiana and Syafiq 2013). Then in Nanik's research (2015) it was also concluded that the most difficult time faced by some single women is when they entering the 30 years old cycle. This can be said as the thirties, entering the "twilight zone" of single hood.

Based on data from the Department of Population and Civil Registration / Dindukcapil of Banyumas Regency, women aged 30-40 years who are unmarried amounted to 6,432 people from 1,786,242 people in the total population of Banyumas Regency. This number is obtained per 2016, which every year has not changed until 2018.

According to Kartini Kartono (2006), there are several reasons for delaying marriages, someone who never reaches the real age of maturity, maturity is essentially not only chronologically physical but also social chronology, social maturity makes individuals must be responsible as adults in society and stay away from egocentrism in the childhood phase. Another reason underlying the postponement of marriage is not finding the right partner and some choosing to live singly.

In addition, there are also women who want to continue to enjoy freedom in taking risks, experimenting, traveling the world, pursuing careers, continuing education or doing creative work (Papalia and Feldman, 2009). Even on the other hand, they tend to change their life goals and values to work-oriented lifestyles, career successes and personal pleasures (Hurlock, 2003).

Based on the statement above, this paper is intended to provide an overview of the stages of decision making to delay marriage of women in the early adult phase because basically these stages can be complicated because they relate to decision-making factors, reasons for delaying marriage and need to consider things such as impacts, both positive and negative impacts.

**DECISION MAKING**

According to Baron and Byrne (2011), decision making is a process of integrating information from existing individuals or groups with the aim of choosing one of the various possible actions. Suharnan (2005) said that decision making is the process of choosing or determining one of the two even more than a possibility that becomes a prediction in the future. Whereas Terry (2013) argues that decision making is choosing alternative behaviors
from two alternatives or more actions to solve the problems being faced by choosing one of the possible alternatives.

According to Kotler (2012), there are five aspects in decision making namely: problem identification, information search and data analysis, making policy alternatives, selecting one of the best alternatives, implementing decisions, monitoring and evaluating the results of implementation. While the factors that influence decision making are (1) cultural factors, which include the role of culture, sub-culture and social class; (2) social factors, which include reference groups, families, roles and social status in society; (3) personal factors, including age and life cycle, work, economic conditions, lifestyle, personality and self-concept; then (4) psychological factors, which include motivation, perception, learning and beliefs and attitudes.

METHODS

This study uses qualitative research methods using a case study approach. The case study approach is an approach that explores real life, limited contemporary systems (cases) or limited systems (various cases), through detailed and in-depth data collection involving various sources of information such as observations, interviews, audiovisual materials and documents from various reports and report case descriptions or case themes (Creswell, 2015).

Research Focus

The main focus of this research is to examine the stages of decision making, the decision making factors and the reasons of delaying marriage made by women in the early adult phase.

Informants of Research

Informants in this study were two early adult women, unmarried but already having lovers, having plans to get married one day, are active in social activities and working, namely RA (35 years) and RI (35 years).

Method of Collecting Data

Data collection is done by semi-structured interviews to informants of the research.

Data Analysis Method

Analysis of the data used is an interactive data analysis technique with stages; collecting data, reducing data, presenting data and drawing conclusions (Miles, Huberman & Saldana, 2014).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

There are various life goals owned by RA (35 years), both life goals that have been achieved and those that have not been achieved. The purposes of life that have not been achieved, one of which is marriage that is full of happiness, eternal and not accompanied by many problems.
“... another goal is marriage, who doesn't wanna get married?. I actually already have a boyfriend but i’m still thinking, marriage is once a life, i don’t wanna get hurt.” (RA)

From the RA response above, it is in line with RI (35 years) who also has a purpose in life, namely marriage.

“InsyaAllah i want to get married, i already have boyfriend but he is still sick so i’m waiting for him to get recovered...” (RI)

Both of them already have lovers whose relationships have been carried out respectively for RA one and a half years and RI three years. It was said that at the beginning of the age cycle of 30 years, the change of age from 29 years to 30 years they felt worried about the unmarried status, but getting closer to the age of 35 years they have no feelings of the anxiety as before, always enjoying and following the flow of life.

“I used to be worried, when i was just started my early thirties. But the more here i don’t worry anymore, just suddenly forget about it all. Now i enjoy my life” (RA)

Then the responses from other people to their unmarried status were fairly positive, without any coercion for the RA and RI to get married immediately. Parents give up all their decisions for the time of they want to get married. Friends do not mind this matter, they are glad that RA and RI are considered easy friends and are not difficult to go out for a walk when compared to married friends who will be busy taking care of their children and husbands, also in the scope of friendship not only those who unmarried so they are not too distinguished.

“..my friends are happy because when they asked me to hang out i dont need to bring my children, it is bothering. They said that i chose the right choice because once i get married i will be more matured, like that.” (RI)

The next responses from the whole family were also not very problematic, especially when there were having large events such as halal bihalal often held at RA and RI house because they thought they were always at home and did not bother to take care of the family. Neighbors only question when they will get married but do not give a negative opinion.

In addition, RA also obtained information about marriages that marriage is sometimes troublesome, makes it inconvenient and cannot be free to go everywhere because it must be responsible for household tasks. Not only that, RA also once got betrayal, her ex-lover had an affair and preferred another woman so that the experience became a learning for RA that must be careful in choosing a partner. RA chose to postpone marriage in order to convince herself with her current lover, it is better than hurrying to get married but ultimately unhappy and divorced.
“...i mean.. if i get married too soon but finally get divorced, it really will make me get stressed, so i have boyfriend but the only problem is i’m still not ready, my heart doesn’t say that it’s the right time. I used to get hurt and traumatized because my ex-boyfriend cheated on me and preferred the other woman. In front of me he was good, but actually he turned out to be a bad person. When i’m not ready so i don’t want, the important is delaying but i will get a good person”. (RA)

While RI said there is no ideal age for marriage but based on maturity, readiness and matchmaking has also been arranged by the God. RI actually had a plan to get married some time ago but in the past two years her lover was sick and still until now, so she is waiting him to recover and she does not want to leave her current lover even though her friends had said to look for another man who was really ready but she does not want and want to keep waiting for her current lover to recover first. This is what made RI delay to get married.

“...i already have boyfriend, he is still sick so we decided to get married later. We used to plan the marriage but failed. He is in a hard condition so it doesn’t mean i need to find a new one right?.” (RI)

On the other hand, RA and RI are also busy with their work as traders and one day want their business to become big first. They are also preoccupied with activities outside the home such as activities with the community, social gathering of neighborhoods, community groups, traveling and so on. RA and RI still want to enjoy their lives now before deciding to start a marriage.

The decision to postpone marriage carried out by RA and RI sometimes feels heavy because every time they see other people, especially their friends who are married and bring their children and husbands, they feel envy and want to have the same situation someday. But the feeling of enjoying their present life is greater than that envy.

“...sometimes i envy, i want to be like that but i don’t think too much. One day i will also have a family like that but this is not the right time yet. I’m grateful with my life now, i enjoy” (RI).

During the postponement of marriage, RA and RI also receive impacts both positive and negative impacts. The positive impact of RA in the form of freedom in activities and traveling with friends without any responsibility for taking care of the household, felt independent having their own jobs compared to other married women, feeling more mature and steady when they start the marriage, the results of their works can still be used only for themselves because there is no burden on husband and child.

“...indepent, business can be managed by myself, do not depend on parents. The money that i got i can use it for fun, go for community activities, can buy my own motorcycle, can use it for this and that” (RA)
The negative impact is that sometimes RA feels jealous about his friends who are married by having children and husbands, and infertility problems that are less likely to get pregnant with old ages.

Whereas RI feels that she can focus on managing its business and feels independent when compared to other married women and those who work are their husbands. The negative impact is the same as that felt by RA, that is sometimes RI feels jealous when they see friends who are married by having children and husbands.

Based on the results of the above research, the two informants namely RA and RI passed a form of the stages of decision making to delay marriage, namely problem identification, information seeking and data analysis, making policy alternatives, selecting an alternative, implementing decisions and monitoring and evaluating implementation results (Kotler, 2012). Explanation of the form of the stages above relates to the factors that influence decision making to delay marriage, the reason for delaying marriage and the effects of delaying marriage.

**Decision-Making Factors for Delaying Marriage**

In decision making, it is influenced by factors such as (1) cultural factors, which include the role of culture, sub-culture and social class; (2) social factors, which include reference groups, families, roles and social status in society; (3) personal factors, including age and life cycle, work, economic conditions, lifestyle and personality; then (4) psychological factors, which include motivation, perception, learning and beliefs and attitudes (Kotler, 2012).

Of the four types of factors above, RA and RI informants are only influenced by social factors, personal factors and psychological factors. (1) Social factors consisting of reference groups, families as well as roles and social status in the community. The reference group means group or friendship, not only RA informants and RI who are not married at the age of 30 years but there are also some who are unmarried so that they are not too pressured to get married soon.

Then also friends consider RA and RI to be easy friends and not difficult to be invited to go for a hang out when compared to married friends who will be busy taking care of their children and husbands. The family give up all the decisions of the RA and RI for when to get married, nor it becomes really matter or be discriminated against in whole families. In the role and social status of the community, the community recognizes the busyness of the RA and RI, that actively participates in activities such as the social gathering of the neighborhoods, religious groups and so on.

(2) The second factor is personal factors consisting of age and life cycle, work, economic conditions, lifestyle, personality and self-concept. Regarding age, even though the age of RA and RI is enough to start a marriage, they feel they have not yet reached maturity,
so they expect with this decision will be more mature and mature for the provision of marriage. In work, RA and RI are still not ready economically and still want to focus on their works. In lifestyle, RA and RI are looking to enjoy their lives, the material they have wants to be used to fulfill their personal needs and pleasures. In personality, RA and RI have different characteristics with others, which means they are not too easy to be influenced by others, when they want to delay their marriage will automatically decide when to end it.

(3) The third factor is psychological factors which include motivation, perception, learning and beliefs and attitudes. RI has the motivation to prioritize its life goals, that the first thing she wants to do is succeed in the job then after marriage. RA has the perception that a happy marriage must be based on the stability of the heart, if the heart is still unstable she chooses to delay. Then the learning gained from personal experience is that it has been hurt by ex-lovers to make RA take a long time to understand the current lover, that is actually good or not. For beliefs and attitudes, RA and RI have the belief that marriage is not based on age but maturity. RA and RI also responded that marriage is not good if done in a hurry, which slowly but finds a match in the heart and choice of God.

Reasons for Delaying Marriage

According to Kartini Kartono (2006), there are several reasons for delaying marriage, including someone who has never reached the real age of maturity, maturity is essentially not only chronologically physical but also socially chronological, social maturity makes individuals must be responsible as adults in society and away from egocentrism in the childhood phase. This has similarities with the two RA informants and RI, namely that they have not yet felt mature enough even though both of them have reached the early adult phase. RA and RI delayed marriage until they would be fully prepared and mature to get married but not yet determined precisely.

In addition, RA and RI also still want to be free to move and go out without a burden to their husbands and or children, prioritize work to get success and their income is used for their personal interests without needing to be shared with people. This statement is in accordance with what was stated by Papalia and Feldman (2009), namely there are also women who want to continue to enjoy freedom in taking risks, experimenting, traveling the world, pursuing careers, continuing education or doing creative work.

The thing most pointed out by the two informants was that they are often preoccupied with activities in the community, they are very concerned about social status such as in neighborhood activities, recitation groups or other associations. As explained in previous studies that the factors for delaying marriage are career, fulfilling the desire of parents to work first, social status in the community, not wanting to be bound or want to be free, living environment encourages being a career woman, priority in single life or personal desires and culture and traditions of the community to pursue a career (Bayali, 2013).
CONCLUSION

Decision making taken by the two informants is the best decision before actually starting the marriage and going through several stages that finally reach the decision of delaying marriage, the decision is complicated because it considers the impact faced both positive and negative impacts. The positive impact in the form of freedom in activities and traveling, feels more mature and steady when it comes to starting a marriage, feels more independent than other women who are married and who work are her husband. For negative impacts, namely in the form of feeling jealous to see other people who are married and have children and husbands, as well as infertility problems that are less likely to get pregnant as we get older.

Apart from the impact, the factors that influence decision making also need to be considered such as cultural factors, social factors, personal factors and psychological factors. Then the reason for delaying marriage becomes prominent, namely to get married if it is truly ready and mature but has not been determined precisely, then the desire to be free to move and have fun without any burden on the husband and / or child, prioritizing work to get success and the income is used for their personal interests without the need to be divided for people, the latter being concerned with activities in the community and very concerned about social status such as in neighborhood activities, recitations groups or other associations.

REFERENCES


