



THE INFLUENCE OF INTERPERSONAL COMMUNICATION ON MARRIAGE SATISFACTION OF WOMEN WHO MARRY AT AN EARLY AGE IN NIAS DISTRICT

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Abstract

This research aims to see The Influence of Interpersonal Communication on Marital Satisfaction of Women Who Marry at an Early Age in Nias Regency. Based on the discussion of research data analysis conducted on women who married at an early age in Nias Regency, the following conclusions can be drawn: Based on the results of statistical tests carried out by researchers, it can be concluded that H_0 is accepted and H_a is rejected, which means that there is no significant influence between Interpersonal Communication and Marital Satisfaction in Women Who Marry at an Early Age in Nias Regency. These results indicate that other factors, such as social and economic pressures, may play a greater role in determining marital satisfaction in this group. Further research is needed to identify these factors and understand how they influence marital satisfaction. From the results of the categorization analysis on the Interpersonal Communication variable, it shows that the overall Interpersonal Communication variable is in the low category with 1 person (1%), in the medium categorization there are 72 people (83%), in the high categorization there are 14 people (16%). From the results of the categorization analysis on the Marital Satisfaction variable, it shows that the overall Marital Satisfaction variable is in the low category as many as 11 people (13%), in the medium categorization as many as 62 people (71%), in the high categorization as many as 14 people (16%). From the results of the T test, the significance of the regression coefficient between the independent variable (Interpersonal Communication) and the dependent variable (Marital Satisfaction) was tested, where the result was $t\text{-count} < t\text{-table} = 0.550 < 1.662$, so H_0 was accepted and H_a was rejected (no influence).

Keywords: Influence, Interpersonal Communication, Marital Satisfaction, Women

INTRODUCTION

Marriage symbolizes the process of bonding emotional and social relationships involving two individual entities that are bound to each other, as well as uniting two large family environments to form a household entity that harmonizes harmony. The conception of the Marriage Law in 1974 explicitly emphasizes that marriage is not merely a physical bond, but also a spiritual bond between two individuals, a man and a woman, who are legally recognized as husband and wife, with the aim of creating a family that is prosperous and lasting, in line with the values of the Almighty God. In addition, Article 2 Paragraph 1 of

the 1945 Constitution ensures that a marriage is declared valid if it is carried out in accordance with the rules applicable in the religion and beliefs of each individual involved. Marriage is one of the most important events in a person's life (Zare Shahabadi and Montazeri, 2019). Apart from that, marriage is a responsibility for every person as stated in every religious teaching. In every religious teaching, marriage has a sacred meaning, which is the main factor in making a family happy (Batara & Kristianingsih, 2020). For many people, marriage is a source of satisfaction and fulfillment of needs in life. Of course marriage is not an easy thing to find happiness with the problems that will be faced along the way.

Marriage according to Law no. 1 of 1974 is a spiritual and physical bond between a man and a woman as husband and wife with the aim of forming a happy and eternal family (household) based on the belief in the Almighty Godhead, apart from that marriage is used as a means for individuals for emotional, physical closeness, and various tasks and economic resources. Based on this goal, men and women formalize their relationship in a marriage bond (Chandra, 2019).

Many couples want to get married to long for happiness. According to Olson et al (2019) the happiness, satisfaction and pleasure felt subjectively by married individuals can be seen from the aspects contained in marital satisfaction. However, in reality there are still many married couples who are unable to overcome their marriage problems.

Based on the latest statistics collected by the North Sumatra Province Central Statistics Agency in 2018-2021, it was recorded that the marriage rate in the North Sumatra Province region in the 2018-2021 period reached 255,643. What needs to be noted further is the provisions regulated in Law no. 16 of 2019 which stipulates that marriage is only permitted if both parties, both male and female, have reached the age of 19 years. The determination of this age limit is based on the consideration that at this age, the individual's mental and physical maturity is considered to have reached a level of maturity sufficient to face marriage responsibly and to obtain healthy and quality offspring (Yunanto & Kenward, 2024).

In the context of early marriage, the psychological aspect shows that individuals under 20 years of age may not yet have the mental and emotional maturity needed to face the various dynamics and challenges that arise in married life. These deficiencies may affect their capacity to manage changes related to marital commitment (Fiqrunnisa, Yuliadi, & Saniatuzzulfa, 2023).

Marriage at a young age refers to marriages that occur when the man and woman are still under the age specified in the Marriage Law. According to the provisions of Republic of Indonesia Law Number 1 of 1974, article 7 paragraph 1, marriage is only permitted if both parties have reached a certain age, namely a man of at least 19 years and a woman of at least 16 years. If you are under that age, it is categorized as early marriage. The concept of early marriage, according to the World Health Organization (WHO), refers to a marriage involving a partner or one partner who is still in the category of child or teenager, namely under the age of 19 years. The perspective presented by the United Nations Children's Fund

(UNICEF) states that early marriage refers to marriages that are entered into either legally or illegally before the age of 18 years.

According to data from the Nias Regency Central Statistics Agency (BPS), in 2020 there were 14.33% of women aged 20-24 years who were married under the age of 18. This means that for every 100 women aged 20-24 years in Nias Regency, there are around 14 people who married before reaching the age of 18 years.

In the period 2020 to 2023, the prevalence of early marriage in Nias Regency (women aged 20-24 years who married before the age of 18 years) based on data from the Central Bureau of Statistics (BPS) Nias Regency is 10.43 percent (2020), 10.02 percent (2021), 9.61 percent (2022), 9.20 percent (2023). This data is the average prevalence of early marriage in the entire Nias Regency area. The prevalence of early marriage in Nias Regency has decreased from 2020 to 2023. This decrease shows that the efforts of the government and various parties to reduce the number of early marriages in Nias Regency are starting to show results. Despite this, the prevalence of early marriage in Nias Regency is still relatively high compared to the national average (Sumanty, Sudirman, & Puspasari, 2018).

There are a number of factors that are the main causes of the high rate of early marriage today. Various factors are the background to this phenomenon, including low levels of education and knowledge among local communities, financial or economic constraints, customs that are still strong in the area, low understanding of religious values, as well as cases of pregnancy abroad. marriages that often occur and are often referred to as marriages by accident (Diana, 2023).

Early marriage refers to marriages entered into by individual women and men before reaching the age considered sufficient in accordance with the policies stated in the Marriage Law. Those who marry at an age that is not yet optimal in terms of finances, mental readiness and psychological health tend to be more vulnerable to various problems that arise after marriage (Octaviani & Nurwati, 2020).

For married couples, one of the important aspects of marriage is marital satisfaction. Marital satisfaction is an important part of mental health for both individuals and families. In general, the level of marital satisfaction is determined by the level of happiness in the relationship between the couple, their feelings about their own marriage, their perspectives and perceptions about marriage.

Marital satisfaction according to Olson et al (2019) is a husband or wife's evaluation of their married life which is based on feelings of satisfaction, happiness and pleasant experiences shared with their partner. According to Hayati (2017), couples who can find satisfaction in marriage have the ability to have personal relationships full of love and happiness, togetherness and integrity in the family, can carry out their duties as parents well, can accept conflicts and resolve conflicts, and have an attitude of right for everyone.

Meanwhile, according to Fowers and Olson marital satisfaction is an evaluation of the quality of marriage from various aspects, namely communication, conflict resolution, personality issues, free time activities, financial management, sexual relations, family and friends, equality of roles, religious orientation and children and parenting. . In this research,

the definition of marital satisfaction refers to the definition put forward by Fowers and Olson.

Age at marriage is known to have a relationship with marital satisfaction, where couples who marry at the age of 22-25 years tend to have high, stable and happy marital satisfaction (Purwasetiawatik, 2020). In addition, it was found that marital stability tends to increase with increasing age at marriage (Purwasetiawatik, 2020). From this explanation, it can be seen that the younger the age at marriage, the more likely they are to experience marital dissatisfaction. Article 7 of the 1974 Marriage Law stipulates that the minimum age for girls is lower than that of boys, namely 16 years and 19 years for boys. This reflects a discriminatory view of age limits so that girls are more vulnerable to the bad consequences of early marriage (Kurniati & Rozali, 2020).

For women who marry early, of course this has an impact on their psychological condition where they feel they are not ready to accept these changes, so they are vulnerable to experiencing dissatisfaction in their married life and often ends in divorce (HOSHI, 2018). In most societies in the world, wives report experiencing lower marital satisfaction than husbands. Because during interactions in their marriage, women use more emotional decisions and become unhappy for a longer period of time than men. From this formulation, there is a tendency that women or wives have a greater possibility of facing problems of dissatisfaction in marriage.

According to (Febriyani & Dewi, 2022), couples who have been married for less than five years have higher marital satisfaction than those who have been married for more than 5 years. Wardhani added further that this could happen because couples over 5 years old have more time with their partner. By communicating effectively with each other to maintain intimacy and good communication, couples who have been married for more than 5 years need to invest time and effort to ensure that they remain involved with each other, and continue to strengthen their relationship through open and honest communication. Good communication and investment in the relationship remain key in maintaining marital satisfaction over time.

Irada Nur Anisa Wicaksono's research entitled "The influence of interpersonal communication skills on the satisfaction of wives who marry early on Mandangin Island" shows that the influence of interpersonal communication on marital satisfaction is 8%. Then, Paujiatul Arifah's research "Interpersonal communication on marital satisfaction in taaruf married couples", the results of the analysis show that interpersonal communication skills have a significant effect on marital satisfaction and contribute 33.3%. The results of research by Lhaily Soulthana, Al Thuba Septa Priynggasari, Firlia Candra Kartika "Interpersonal communication on marital satisfaction in early adult women" the results of the analysis show that interpersonal communication has a 29.3% effect on marital satisfaction.

If you look at the type of marriage, couples who marry early in Nias Regency are traditional types of couples. Traditional type couples tend to marry young, have many children, and have the same religious background. The problems that these couples often face are conflict resolution and the quality of communication (Mongdong & Kusumiati, 2023). In traditional

couples, especially for women, the level of difficulty in communicating has an impact on the wife's lack of openness towards her husband who is struggling with conflict and is significantly related to decreased marital satisfaction (Taniguchi & Kaufman 2014).

Communication is important to maintain a harmonious relationship and is a strong basis for marriage (Handayani, et al., 2008). JA Devito defines communication as an action by one or more people who sends and receives messages that are distorted by interference, occur in a certain context, have a certain influence and there is an opportunity for feedback. To achieve effective interpersonal communication, individuals must have at least five general qualities, namely empathy, supportive attitude, positive attitude, equality and openness (Junaidin, Mustafa, Hartono, & Khoirunnisa, 2023).

Based on interviews conducted with Dewi Tafonao. Currently, at the age of 21, Dewi has been married for 5 years and has three children and is busy taking care of the household and children. The following is an excerpt from an interview the author conducted:

"At first I often felt sad because I actually wanted to be with my parents and family without any negative feelings or thoughts. I feel so happy when I'm near my family. The way to fulfill my wish is to tell my husband. If my husband doesn't understand, I just keep quiet, I can't be angry. It all depends on my husband. So I was patient, and hoped that in the future he would realize what he was doing and be more understanding, because I didn't dare say it. However, now I feel happy because my husband is always open to listening to me. We always try to support and encourage each other. Good communication makes our marriage more harmonious and happy."

Conditions where one partner is not open in communicating results in less effective communication and can affect marital satisfaction (Vanover, 2016). The aspect of openness in communication also influences a couple's sexual satisfaction. When couples communicate openly about problems in the marital relationship, including sexual relations, they will feel closer, sexual satisfaction increases and reduces the effects of dissatisfaction in their relationship (Wendi & Kusmiati, 2022). This also happened to wives who married in Nias Regency, the following is an excerpt from an interview the author conducted:

"Yes, in the beginning there were difficulties and anxiety. Apart from that, there were times when I couldn't communicate for days or even almost a week because I rarely saw my husband because he went out of town as an expedition car driver. I felt increasingly awkward and embarrassed. Then my husband asked, "Why are you embarrassed? There's no need to be embarrassed." Finally, we both opened up to each other and had an honest conversation."

If husband and wife communication is not effective, both parties will feel that they are not heard and appreciated, making conflict resolution difficult. On the other hand, if a couple is able to carry out effective interpersonal communication then the couple can support each other, trust each other, and can balance the needs of each relationship to be warm and intimate so as to minimize the occurrence of conflict. Muslimah concluded that interpersonal communication has a strong relationship with marital satisfaction.

Early marriage is still widespread in Nias Regency, with a significant impact on married life, especially for wives. The risks and challenges faced by wives who marry at an early age, who are not yet physically, emotionally and socially mature, can affect marital

satisfaction. One important factor in marriage is interpersonal communication. The ability of wives who marry at an early age to communicate effectively may not be optimal, so interpersonal communication becomes important in building and maintaining a healthy and satisfying marriage.

Interpersonal communication includes the process in which individuals consciously or unconsciously express themselves regarding the observed actions of another party, which are then perceived by the other party as a response to those actions. The importance of conformity in daily communication patterns with the wishes of the partner emphasizes that effective communication in a husband and wife relationship must take into account the needs and expectations of both parties. Satisfying only one party in communication can lead to imbalance and dissatisfaction in the relationship, while the main goal of communication in this context is to allow both partners to feel satisfaction in their interactions. Moreover, even though the message conveyed may have good intentions, if the method of delivery is not appropriate, this can cause tension in the husband and wife relationship, especially if both of them do not understand each other's communication patterns well (Rohmayani, 2022).

The ability to communicate effectively between husband and wife involves the ability to establish relevant agreements within the family before carrying out activities that will later become routine. The inability to carry out effective communication has the potential to trigger dissatisfaction in marital ties, considering the important role of smooth communication in building understanding and harmony in family relationships (Budiarti & Hanoum, 2019).

The feeling of dissatisfaction that occurs within the marriage bond is often the root of problems that trigger conflict between husband and wife. This can come from a number of factors that influence the quality of the relationship and personal satisfaction between both parties, which then triggers conflicts and differences of opinion which can disrupt the balance in the marriage bond (Wati, Venny, Tantama, & Dwi Putra, 2021).

Sources of conflict that arise in household dynamics can originate from various factors, such as problems related to finances, interactions with extended family members, roles shared in daily activities at home, dissatisfaction with aspects of sexual relations, and communication styles used between partners. Apart from that, another source of conflict is the tendency of one partner to focus more on their smartphone device than paying attention to the other, which results in feelings of neglect in the partner or even a lack of effective communication between the two. These sources of complexity emphasize that conflict in the household can arise from various aspects that require careful handling and wise management from both parties (Lisa Astini, Nur Afni Safarina, & Ella Suzanna, 2022).

Interpersonal communication refers to the process of direct interaction that occurs between two or more individuals, which involves the exchange of messages both verbally and nonverbally. These communication dynamics can be realized both in group contexts and in individual situations. In essence, interpersonal communication is the embodiment of the personal communication dimension. More specifically, this type of communication involves

direct exchange between individuals with each other's physical presence, allowing each participant to interpret the responses of his or her communication partner directly, either through verbal or nonverbal expressions (Sarina, 2018).

From the explanation that has been described, researchers are interested in conducting research on "The Influence of Interpersonal Communication on the Marital Satisfaction of Women Who Marry at an Early Age in Nias Regency" .

METHODS

Interpersonal communication is communication that occurs between two or more people face to face, which refers to the communication process between two or more people which often involves verbal and non-verbal expressions and tends to use informal language. This usually occurs in a face-to-face context, where individuals interact with each other directly.

In the context of this research, research subjects are women who married at an early age in Nias Regency, aged 16 to 18 years at the time of marriage, the duration of marriage was 5 to 10 years and had at least 1 child.

Population refers to a general collection consisting of various objects or subjects that exhibit specific characteristics and qualities. Researchers select and determine the population to be investigated and analyzed to obtain broader conclusions. The concept of population does not only limit itself to individuals, but also includes various objects or subjects that are the focus of study, and reflects the overall characteristics or traits possessed by these subjects or objects. In order to determine participants or subjects in a study, careful observation of the individual's characteristics is required in order to obtain a significant dataset (D.W.S, 2018).

In the context of this research, the population that has been determined is women who married at an early age who were registered at BPS Nias Regency based on information obtained by the author from BPS Nias Regency employees in 2024, with a total population reaching 117 people.

Sample refers to the process of collecting data which represents a portion of the entire population in a study, which is then used to determine and describe the desired characteristics (Siregar, 2014).

In the context of research, the sample has a function as a representation or reflection of the entire population that is the object of study.

The sample selection for this study was carried out using a *non-probability sampling method* , specifically using purposive sampling. In this type, the sample size is determined not randomly, but rather based on consideration of certain circumstances, including the willingness of the population encountered by the researcher to become respondents, or in some cases, the researcher chooses people closest to him as a sample.

The data collection process is a stage that consists of the information acquisition process, both sourced from primary data (obtained directly from the original source) and secondary data (obtained from pre-existing sources), which is carried out within the framework of a research.

A measurement scale is an agreed system that provides guidelines for establishing the distances or intervals contained in a measuring instrument, which leads to the collection of data in quantitative form when the measuring instrument is used. This scale allows determining the magnitude of the

difference or distance between the measured values, facilitating the collection of data that can be calculated or measured numerically (Nurhikmah, Taibe, & Zubair, 2022).

Researchers utilized a measuring tool in the form of a Likert scale with five response points, where participants were asked to provide their responses by choosing from the options "Strongly Agree (SS=5)", "Agree (S=4)", "Neutral (N=3)", "Disagree (TS=2)", to "Strongly Disagree (STS=1)". which are given.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Overview of Research Subjects

The research subjects were 87 respondents who were women who married at an early age, namely 16 to 18 years in Nias Regency. Through the scale that was distributed to the subjects, a description of the research subjects was obtained based on age, age of marriage, origin/district, wife's work status, husband's work status, last education and number of children.

Description of Research Subjects Based on Age

Based on age categorization, women who marry at an early age are aged 21 to 28 years. Based on age, it can be seen that 1 person was 21 years old (1.1%), 8 people were 22 years old (9.2%), 17 people were 23 years old (19.5%), 24 years old as many as 20 people (23%), aged 25 years as many as 15 people (17.2%), aged 26 years as many as 11 people (12.6%), aged 27 years as many as 9 people (10.3%), aged 28 years as many as 6 people (6.9%). An overview can be seen in the table below.

Table 1.

Age		
Age	Amount	Percentage
21 years	1	(1.1%)
22 years	8	(9.2%)
23 years	17	(19.5%)
24 years old	20	(23%)
25 years	15	(17.2%)
26 years old	11	(12.6%)
27 years old	9	(10.3%)
28 years old	6	(6.9%)

Hypothesis Testing

Hypothesis testing was carried out using simple linear regression to see the effect of Interpersonal Communication on Marital Satisfaction in Women Who Married Early in Nias Regency. To test this hypothesis, calculations using the SPSS For Windows 24.0 program can be obtained:

Table 2.
Hypothesis Test Results

		Coefficients ^a					Collinearity Statistics	
Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	Q	Sig.	Tolerance	VIF
		B	Std. Error	Beta				
1	(Constant)	182,738	24,192		7,554	,000		
	INTERPERSONAL COMMUNICATION	,130	,237	,060	,550	,584	1,000	1,000

a. Dependent Variable: MARRIAGE SATISFACTION

Based on the test results, it can be concluded that interpersonal communication does not have a significant influence on the marital satisfaction of women who marry at an early age in Nias Regency.

From the results of the analysis carried out by researchers through the *SPSS For Windows 24.0 program*, the simple linear regression equation mode obtained is:

$$Y = a + b$$

Information :

Y = Dependent variable (Aggressive Behavior)

X = Independent variable (*Self Control*)

a = Constant number of *unstandardized coefficients*

b = Regression coefficient number

$$Y = 182.738 + (.130)$$

The equation value means that if there is a one-unit increase in Interpersonal Communication, the value of Marital Satisfaction for Women Who Marry at an Early Age in Nias Regency will increase by .130 so that the value of Marital Satisfaction for Women Who Marry at an Early Age in Nias Regency is $182.738 + 0.130 = 182,868$.

The basis for decision making in regression analysis by looking at the significance value (Sig) of the SPSS output results is that if the significance value is less than <0.05 , it means that there is an influence of Interpersonal Communication (X) on Marital Satisfaction (Y). conversely, if the significance value is greater than 0.05 , it means that there is no influence of Interpersonal Communication (X) on Marital Satisfaction (Y). Based on the table above, it is known that the significance value is $0.584 > 0.05$, so it can be concluded that H_0 is accepted and H_a is rejected, which means that "there is an influence of Interpersonal Communication (X) on Marital Satisfaction (Y)."

This hypothesis testing is often also called the t test, where the basis for decision making in the t test is that if the t-count > t-table value then there is an influence of Interpersonal Communication on Marital Satisfaction. On the other hand, if the t-value < t-table then there is no influence of Interpersonal Communication on Marital Satisfaction.

From the output above it can be seen that the t-count value is 0.550. because the t-count value is 0.550 and the t-table is 1.662 so the result is t-count < t-table = 0.550 < 1.662, so Ho is accepted, Ha is rejected (there is no influence). The results showed that there was no influence of interpersonal communication on marital satisfaction.

Table 3.
Simple Linear Regression Test

Model Summary^b				
Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.060 ^a	.004	-.008	4.822

a. Predictors: (Constant), KOMUNIKASI INTERPERSONAL

To find out the magnitude of the influence of interpersonal communication on marital satisfaction in a simple linear regression analysis, you can see the *R Square* in the SPSS output above. It is known that the *R Square* value is 0.004. This value means that the influence of Interpersonal Communication on Marital Satisfaction is 0.4%, while 99.6% of Marital Satisfaction is caused by other variables that have not been studied.

Discussion

This research aims to identify whether Interpersonal Communication Influences Marital Satisfaction in Women Who Marry at an Early Age in Nias Regency. To achieve this goal, a simple linear regression analysis technique was used involving two variables: Interpersonal Communication as the independent variable and Marital Satisfaction as the dependent variable. Based on the results of the hypothesis test carried out by the researcher using simple linear regression analysis, it was found that Ho was accepted and Ha was rejected. In this research, the results of hypothesis testing show that there is no significant influence between interpersonal communication and marital satisfaction among women who marry at an early age in Nias Regency. However, this research faced obstacles in collecting data because some subjects had limited understanding of Indonesian. Even though clarification has been made in a language that is easier to understand, there are still concerns regarding the possibility of bias in the research results. This finding is in line with research by Lavner et al., who also question the common assumption that couple communication directly influences marital satisfaction.

The results of the analysis also produce a linear regression equation, namely $Y = 182.738 + 0.130X$. This indicates that interpersonal communication of women who marry at an early age in Nias Regency plays a role in increasing their marital satisfaction.

According to Kumar and Haris, marital satisfaction is a subjective evaluation of a person's experience in their marriage . Marital satisfaction according to Fowers and Olson (1993) is an

evaluation of the quality of marriage from various aspects, namely communication, conflict resolution, personality issues, free time activities, financial management, sexual relations, family and friends, equality of roles, religious orientation and children and parenting. Marital satisfaction is also associated with lower levels of psychological and physical stress in individuals. This means that husbands and wives who are satisfied with their marriage are less likely to experience physical or psychological stress. Conversely, low satisfaction in marriage is associated with various physical illnesses, such as high blood pressure and heart disease, as well as psychological problems such as anxiety, depression, and substance abuse (Situngkir, 2018). Research by Gottman also highlights that effective communication strategies can increase marital satisfaction in young couples. However, in the context of early marriage, other factors may be more dominant in influencing marital satisfaction, thereby reducing the direct influence of interpersonal communication.

Interpersonal communication is communication carried out by individuals to exchange ideas or thoughts with other individual. DeVito believes that interpersonal communication is communication that occurs between two people who have a clear relationship, who are connected in some way.

Lavner et al. (Faizati, Sa'diyah, Prihatini, & Khusna, 2022) revealed that although the quality of communication between partners is often considered a major factor in determining marital satisfaction, the empirical evidence to support this assumption is inconsistent. Their study used four waves of data from newly married couples to test whether communication predicted changes in marital satisfaction or vice versa. The results showed a reciprocal relationship between communication and marital satisfaction, but none of the paths showed a significantly strong influence.

This research shows that communication is not the only or main factor that influences marital satisfaction. Conversely, marital satisfaction itself can influence how partners communicate with each other. In this context, intervention approaches that focus too much on improving communication skills may not always be effective in increasing marital satisfaction. In the context of research conducted by researchers, the results showing that there is no significant influence of interpersonal communication on marital satisfaction among women who married at an early age in Nias Regency can be explained using the findings of Lavner et al. (2016). This indicates that there are other factors that are more decisive in influencing marital satisfaction in this population, such as cultural, social, or economic factors that are specific to your research region and demographics.

So interpersonal communication, for example communication that occurs between mother and child, doctor and patient, two people in an interview, etc. Tanley, Markman, and Whitton (2002) emphasized the importance of interpersonal factors, such as openness and trust, in determining marital satisfaction. However, they also suggest that external and contextual factors, such as economic and social conditions, may obscure the influence of interpersonal communication on marital satisfaction.

Research by Fincham and Beach (Larasati, Qodariah, & Jofiani, 2021) supports these findings, stating that early marriage is often faced with unique challenges, including higher social and economic pressures, as well as limitations in communication abilities. They found that other factors,

such as economic pressure and social support, may have a more dominant role in influencing marital satisfaction in women who marry at an early age.

Based on the subject categorization in the research results, it was found that subjects with high interpersonal communication had high marital satisfaction. Apart from that, it was also found that subjects who had low interpersonal communication had low marital satisfaction as well. Gottman (2004) concluded that the higher the interpersonal quality, the greater the individual's marital satisfaction and vice versa. The results of family discussions and decision making include finances, children, career and religion, even how to express affection, desires and needs will depend on communication skills. Thus, it can be concluded that the higher the quality of interpersonal communication, the greater the individual's overall satisfaction with marital life.

Then looking at the description of the subjects based on marriage age, information was obtained that the majority of 51 subjects or 80% were in the marriage age range of 4-7 years. Of the 51 subjects, 7 people had low marital satisfaction scores, and 5 other people were in the high category. This is supported by the opinion of Marker (2005) that marriages in the first five years tend to have higher marital satisfaction compared to other ages of marriage. Other information obtained from this description is that the subjects were in the 8-10 year age range, namely 17 people or 71% were in the medium category. 4 people are in the high categorization and 3 people are in the low categorization. Based on this statement, the majority of subjects in the marriage age range of 4-10 years had moderate and high marital satisfaction categorizations. This is confirmed by Baumeister (2007) who states that marital satisfaction tends to be higher in the first ten years.

From the categorization results Marital Satisfaction based on the results of research with 87 respondents, it is known that out of a total of 87 subjects, 11 people were in the low marital satisfaction category, 62 were in the medium marital satisfaction category, and 14 people were in the high marital satisfaction category. From the data obtained, it is known that 76 of the 87 subjects felt satisfaction in their marriage. In other words, the majority of wives who married at an early age in Nias Regency have reached a level of satisfaction in their marriage.

Even though the majority of wives who married at an early age in Nias Regency experienced marital satisfaction, we cannot ignore the 11 subjects who were included in the low marital satisfaction category. This shows that there are still wives who married at an early age in Nias Regency who feel dissatisfied or are not yet satisfied with their marriage. Hawkins and Booth (2005) found that low marital satisfaction has a negative impact in the long term. These negative impacts include decreased well-being, low happiness, decreased self-esteem, poor physical and mental health, and increased psychological stress. In addition, low marital satisfaction can trigger violence or abuse against a partner, both physically and psychologically, reduce intimacy, disrupt normal life functions, and make it difficult to resolve disputes even through mediation. This causes couples to be in protracted conflict and encourages them to make the decision to divorce.

In addition, if we consider the subject description based on the number of children, there are 9 subjects who have 1-4 children who have low marital satisfaction, meanwhile there are 55 subjects who have 1-4 children who have moderate marital satisfaction, and 11 subjects Those who have 1-4 children have high marital satisfaction. Subjects who have 5-8 children in the marital satisfaction categorization, namely, there is 1 subject who is in the low category, while 9 subjects are in the

medium category, and 2 subjects are in the high category. This shows that subjects who have 1-4 children tend to have a high level of marital satisfaction compared to subjects who have 5-8 children. This is supported by the opinion of Twenge, et al., (2003, in Ghahremani, et al., 2017) who conducted a literature study on the wife's role as a parent and found a negative relationship between the number of children and marital satisfaction. In other words, the more children you have, the greater the decrease in the wife's satisfaction in her marital relationship.

Marital satisfaction can have a positive or negative impact on the husband-wife relationship. Marital satisfaction is predicted to have an impact on individual well-being as measured by life satisfaction and self-esteem. On the other hand, marital dissatisfaction is predicted to have an impact on the instability of husband-wife relationships and can lead to relationship breakdown or even divorce (Riyanti, Nurlaila, & Astutiningrum, 2019).

Based on Interpersonal Communication categorization data, information was obtained that out of a total of 87 women who were subjects, 14 people were in the high category, 72 were in the medium category, and 1 person was in the low category. From these data it can be seen that 86 subjects were in the medium and high categories. This shows that the majority of wives who marry early on Mandangin Island have effective interpersonal communication. The quality of effective interpersonal communication is demonstrated through openness between the wife and husband, positive attitudes and mutual support between the two, and equality. Interpersonal communication among women who marry at an early age in Nias Regency is in the medium and high categories, so that communication is carried out to a certain extent to reduce the occurrence of conflict, put aside personal interests, and avoid feelings of guilt due to disobedience to authority. Effective interpersonal communication is important for married life. If a couple is able to carry out effective interpersonal communication then the couple can support each other, trust each other, balance each other's needs for a warm and intimate relationship so as to minimize the occurrence of conflict.

Even though the majority of women who marry at an early age in Nias Regency are in the medium and high interpersonal communication categories, we cannot ignore 1 subject with low interpersonal communication. This shows that there are still women who marry at an early age in Nias Regency who have not communicated interpersonally effectively. As the Village Head said, the strong patriarchal culture tends to make women or wives in Nias Regency have a tendency to keep personal problems and feel afraid to convey his wishes. Interpersonal communication from this 1 subject needs to be paid attention to because it is an important element related to almost all aspects of married life. Interpersonal communication is a medium for sharing experiences and feelings, expressing love verbally, expressing appreciation for living together and discussing various aspects and decision making in marriage.

Apart from that, there were interesting findings where there were 11 subjects who had low marital satisfaction but had high interpersonal communication. This is contrary to findings from previous research which stated that marital satisfaction will be high if interpersonal communication is also high. According to several studies, the early years of marriage are a time when marital satisfaction is high and then experiences a gradual decline. In addition, it was found that subjects with this condition had 3 or 4 children. This shows that the number of children in a marriage influences the

level of marital satisfaction. This is confirmed by research by Ghahremani, et al., (2017) which examined the number of children and gender of the children on the wife's marital satisfaction. The results of this study indicate that the number of children has a negative relationship with marital satisfaction. In other words, as the number of children increases, women's or wives' satisfaction tends to decrease (Mafaza, Anggreiny, & Alfara, 2018).

These results indicate that interpersonal communication is not the only factor that can influence marital satisfaction. This is supported by the results of the determination test in simple linear regression where an *R Square coefficient value* of 0.004 was obtained. In other words, in this study, interpersonal communication only had an influence of 0.4%, while the remaining 99.6% was influenced by other factors that were not studied. Therefore, in similar research in the future, it would be better to examine other factors that influence marital satisfaction besides interpersonal communication, because this can provide a more comprehensive understanding of marital satisfaction.

CONCLUSION

Based on the discussion of research data analysis conducted on women who married at an early age in Nias Regency, the following conclusions can be drawn:

1. Based on the results of statistical tests carried out by researchers, it can be concluded that H_0 is accepted and H_a is rejected, which means that there is no significant influence between Interpersonal Communication and Marital Satisfaction in Women Who Marry at an Early Age in Nias Regency. These results indicate that other factors, such as social and economic pressures, may play a greater role in determining marital satisfaction in this group. Further research is needed to identify these factors and understand how they influence marital satisfaction.
2. From the results of the categorization analysis on the Interpersonal Communication variable, it shows that the overall Interpersonal Communication variable is in the low category with 1 person (1%), in the medium categorization there are 72 people (83%), in the high categorization there are 14 people (16%).
3. From the results of the categorization analysis on the Marital Satisfaction variable, it shows that the overall Marital Satisfaction variable is in the low category as many as 11 people (13%), in the medium categorization as many as 62 people (71%), in the high categorization as many as 14 people (16%).
4. From the results of the T test, the significance of the regression coefficient between the independent variable (Interpersonal Communication) and the dependent variable (Marital Satisfaction) is tested, where the result is $t\text{-count} < t\text{-table} = 0.550 < 1.662$, so H_0 is accepted and H_a is rejected (there is no influence).

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