

Implementation of Child Marriage Prevention Policy in Order to Realize a Child-Friendly District in Bangka Regency

Andi Hudirman, Darol Arkum

Institut Pahlawan 12, Indonesia

Email: tatiraeningsih68@gmail.com, darolarkumugm@gmail.com

Abstract.

This study aims to analyze the implementation of child marriage prevention policies in order to create a Child Friendly Regency in Bangka Regency (Study of Regional Regulation Number 8 of 2022 concerning the Implementation of a Child Friendly Regency) and find out the factors that influence it. The method of analysis in this research is descriptive qualitative method. The data used in this study are primary data from observations and interviews with informants who come from the object of child marriage perpetrators and parents as well as stakeholders from the Bangka Regency Government and secondary data for the period 2021-2023. The results showed that: (1) the implementation of the Child Marriage Prevention policy in order to realize a Child Friendly Regency in Bangka Regency (Study of Regional Regulation Number 8 of 2022 concerning the Implementation of a Child Friendly Regency) has been running well in accordance with the achievement of a decrease in the number of child marriages in Bangka Regency. (2) The factors that influence the implementation of the policy are standard factors and policy objectives, resources, characteristics of implementing agents, attitudes / tendencies of implementers, inter-organizational communication and implementing activities, economic, social and political environment.

Keywords: policy implementation, child marriage, resources, agent characteristics, communication, socio-political environment.

INTRODUCTION

Child marriage is a serious issue in many countries, particularly in developing nations. It is a form of child abuse, and children who are forced to marry, or who must marry due to certain circumstances before the age of 18, are more vulnerable in terms of access to education, health quality, exposure to violence, and living in poverty. This creates significant social challenges, as children who marry early lose the opportunity to grow and develop optimally.

Research on child marriage is crucial due to its multi-dimensional impacts. Studies have shown that child marriage leads to loss of access to education, exposure to gender-based violence, social isolation and poor mental health, untimely pregnancies and poor maternal and child health, and poverty, gender norms, and lack

of educational and employment opportunities for women and girls, as well as human rights violations (Siddiqi & Greene, 2021; Wibowo et al., 2021).

Other studies have found that countries and societies with high gender inequality resulting from child marriage have deprived children of their political and economic rights. Girls who marry before the age of 18 are at higher risk of dropping out of school, gender-based violence, social isolation, poverty, non-use of contraception, high fertility, short birth intervals, unwanted pregnancies, reproductive morbidity including obstetric fistula, maternal death, poor mental health, sexually transmitted infections, and HIV/AIDS. They also face an increased risk of preterm birth, malnutrition, and death. Studies have also reported that early marriage reduces a girl's opportunity to complete her education, thus limiting her chances of achieving a decent livelihood. This leads to a vicious cycle where poverty and low literacy rates—combined with the influences of religion, society, and culture—contribute to a higher prevalence of child marriage (Sandhu, 2017).

Indonesia is among the countries with a high rate of child marriage, ranking 37th globally and second highest in ASEAN after Cambodia. Child marriage is not evenly distributed across provinces in Indonesia, with the highest prevalence occurring in rural areas (Windiarti & Besral, 2018). A survey by the *Badan Pusat Statistik* (BPS) from 2015 to 2021 showed child marriage rates in several provinces. In 2015, the provinces with the highest prevalence included South Kalimantan (23.19%), Central Kalimantan (21.90%), West Sulawesi (21.37%), Central Sulawesi (19.32%), West Kalimantan (17.28%), Southeast Sulawesi (16.88%), North Sulawesi (16.32%), Bangka Belitung (15.58%), Jambi (14.98%), and East Java and West Nusa Tenggara (14.68%). In 2021, there was a shift in prevalence in some provinces, but the same provinces remained dominant, including West Sulawesi (17.71%), West Nusa Tenggara (16.59%), Central Kalimantan (15.47%), South Kalimantan (15.30%), Bangka Belitung (14.05%), West Kalimantan (13.84%), Southeast Sulawesi (13.26%), Papua (13.21%), North Maluku (13.09%), and Central Sulawesi (12.51%).

In 2018, 1 in 9 girls aged 20–24 in Indonesia had married before the age of 18. Childhood is a period for physical, emotional, and social development before entering adulthood. The practice of child marriage violates children's rights and limits their choices and opportunities in life. Every child has the right to survival, growth, and development, as well as protection from violence and discrimination, as mandated by the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia.

This study reinforces the view that the practice of child marriage is rooted in various factors, including individual, family, community, and structural aspects. This aligns with the ecological framework by WHO, which explains that no single factor can fully explain why a particular group is more at risk of facing issues like child marriage.

In general, this study identifies several factors closely related to the practice of child marriage, such as economic, cultural, health, education, social protection, and employment factors. Some of these factors act both as drivers and as protectors against child marriage when addressed with the right approach.

Several studies by UNFPA (2012) and UNICEF & UNFPA (2018) indicate that poverty is a key driver of child marriage for girls in developing countries. Child marriage often occurs in households seeking to improve their economic welfare. In poor households, many girls are considered an economic burden, and marriage is seen as a solution to escape poverty. Data from *Susenas* 2018 shows that children from households in the lowest quintiles are most at risk for child marriage. Education is another important approach to reducing the incidence of child marriage. Girls who continue their education to secondary school or vocational training are less likely to marry early (Dewi & Dartanto, 2018).

In contrast, *Susenas* data from March 2018 shows minimal difference in poverty rates between girls aged 20–24 who married before 18 (13.76%) and those who married after 18 (10.09%). This suggests that while poverty contributes to child marriage, it may not be the sole or primary factor.

Another risk factor commonly found in the literature is rural residency. *Susenas* 2018 data shows that girls in rural areas are twice as likely to marry at a young age compared to girls in urban areas. Further studies show that girls in urban areas have more opportunities outside marriage and child-rearing compared to those in rural areas. This highlights the need for interventions at the local level, particularly in rural areas, to prevent or respond to the practice of child marriage. Increasing the involvement of local governments, such as in Rembang—where the village has established a *Kelompok Perlindungan Anak Desa* (KPAD)—is one strategic approach to preventing child marriage.

Previous studies have highlighted the multifaceted impacts of child marriage, particularly on education, health, and social well-being. Siddiqi and Greene (2021) demonstrated that child marriage leads to reduced access to education, exposure to gender-based violence, and economic marginalization, emphasizing the long-term consequences on girls' empowerment and community development. Similarly, Wibowo et al. (2021) examined the socio-cultural and economic drivers of early marriage in Indonesia, showing that poverty, rural residency, and entrenched gender norms strongly influence its prevalence, while policy interventions remain unevenly implemented. Although these studies provide valuable insights into the causes and consequences of child marriage, there is limited empirical research that evaluates the implementation of local regulations aimed at preventing child marriage, particularly in the Bangka Belitung Archipelago, where prevalence rates remain high despite national

and provincial programs.

The aim of this research is to examine the implementation of child marriage prevention policies through Regional Regulation No. 8 of 2022 on *Kabupaten Layak Anak* (Child-Friendly Districts) in Bangka Regency, and to analyze the factors that influence the effectiveness of these policies. This study seeks to provide a comprehensive understanding of how local regulations are operationalized in preventing child marriage, including the role of government institutions, community engagement, and socio-economic factors. Academically, the research contributes new insights and theoretical perspectives on policy implementation and child protection, serving as a reference for future studies on child marriage prevention and governance in similar contexts. Practically, the findings offer evidence-based recommendations for local governments and stakeholders in Bangka Regency to strengthen policy enforcement, improve community awareness, and enhance interventions aimed at safeguarding children's rights, ultimately supporting the broader goal of reducing the prevalence of child marriage in the region.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

This research employs a descriptive qualitative design to examine the implementation of child marriage prevention policies in Bangka Regency through Regional Regulation No. 8 of 2022 on *Kabupaten Layak Anak* (Child-Friendly Districts). Qualitative research is deemed appropriate for this study as it allows for a holistic, in-depth, and contextually rich understanding of complex social phenomena (Sugiyono, 2006).

The study focuses on government and community actors involved in policy implementation, including officials from the *Dinas Pengendalian Penduduk, Keluarga Berencana, Pemberdayaan Perempuan dan Perlindungan Anak (DP2KBP3A)*, *Badan Perencanaan Pembangunan Daerah (Bappeda)*, religious offices, community leaders, health officers, parents, and children affected by child marriage. Data are collected from both primary and secondary sources: primary data through direct observation and semi-structured interviews with 20 purposively selected informants, and secondary data through institutional documentation such as reports from the *Badan Pusat Statistik (BPS)*, *Bappeda*, and the *DP2KBP3A* of Bangka Regency and Bangka Belitung Province. Documentation, interviews, and field observation serve as the main data collection techniques, ensuring that information is triangulated for accuracy and comprehensiveness.

Data analysis is conducted using qualitative descriptive techniques. Primary data from interviews are reduced through coding, summarizing, categorization, and theme identification to focus on relevant information while discarding irrelevant data.

Triangulation is applied by comparing interview results with observations, documents, and multiple perspectives from different informants, thereby enhancing the validity of the findings. Secondary data are tabulated and categorized for clearer presentation.

The analyzed findings are then presented descriptively to provide a comprehensive overview of policy implementation, identify the factors influencing its effectiveness, and reveal challenges and opportunities for preventing child marriage in the study area. The research is conducted in Sungailiat Sub-district, Bangka Regency, from September to October 2023, selected due to its relatively high incidence of child marriage, which allows for a focused and contextually meaningful investigation.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Implementation of the Child Marriage Prevention Policy Through Regional Regulation Number 8 of 2022 concerning the Implementation of Child-Friendly Districts in Bangka Regency

This section discusses the implementation of the child marriage prevention policy in Bangka Regency, including the implementing agencies and the stages of policy execution. The primary agency responsible for this implementation is the DP2KBP3A (Population Control, Family Planning, Women's Empowerment, and Child Protection Office). Based on the Bangka Regent Regulation No. 72 of 2020 (amended by No. 96 of 2021), DP2KBP3A is tasked with assisting the Regent in managing regional governmental affairs related to population control, family planning, and the empowerment and protection of women and children. The office has functions that include planning, implementing, evaluating, and reporting policies related to these areas, with specific responsibilities for family planning, women's empowerment, and child protection. The department's authority spans the development of policies aimed at controlling population growth, empowering women, and protecting children from violence, ensuring their rights, and providing special protection. The goal for 2023 is to achieve quality family development, focusing on reducing birth rates and increasing gender equality, quality of life, and child protection. Various programs and sub-programs, such as the Prevention of Violence Against Women, Gender Equality, and Child Protection, are being carried out in collaboration with local government bodies, non-governmental organizations, and the community. The programs include educational and advocacy efforts, as well as providing support and services for those in need, ensuring that the district remains child-friendly.

Factors Affecting the Implementation of Regional Regulation Policy Number 8 of 2022 concerning the Implementation of Child-Friendly Districts

This study examines the variables that potentially influence the performance of

the child marriage prevention policy implementation in Bangka Regency, as outlined in Regional Regulation No. 8 of 2022 on Child-Friendly Districts. The key variables to be investigated include 1) policy standards and goals, 2) resources, 3) characteristics of implementing agents, 4) attitudes and tendencies of officials, 5) inter-organizational communication and implementation activities, and 6) the economic, social, and political environment. The findings are explained as follows.

Policy Standards and Goals: The success of policy implementation is guided by clear standards and objectives. According to Regional Regulation No. 8 of 2022, the aim of establishing a Child-Friendly District is to ensure the fulfillment of children's rights and provide special protection in a planned, comprehensive, and sustainable manner. The successful implementation of this policy is assessed through an annual self-assessment, which uses indicators such as institutional strength, child rights clusters, and other factors. The findings from interviews show that while the standards for the Child-Friendly District implementation are clearly outlined, Bangka Regency is still categorized as "Nindya" and has yet to achieve the "Child-Friendly District" status, indicating that implementation is not yet optimal.

Resources: The availability of resources, such as budget, human resources, and infrastructure, significantly affects policy implementation. The budget for implementing the Child-Friendly District policy in 2023 was increased to IDR 2,356,164,938. However, officials reported that the budget is still insufficient for optimal policy implementation. Human resources, particularly the lack of psychologists, are a gap that affects the implementation of the policy. The availability of infrastructure, such as office equipment and computing devices, also remains inadequate, which hampers the smooth execution of activities.

Characteristics of Implementing Agents: The key implementers of the child marriage prevention policy in Bangka Regency are government agencies such as DP2KBP3A, Bappeda, and BPKAD, which collaborate through a task force. The study found that these agencies possess competent human resources, with most staff having a good educational background. However, the lack of a specialized psychologist in the DP2KBP3A is a notable gap. The leadership and managerial abilities of the agency heads, such as the head of DP2KBP3A, are also crucial to the successful implementation of the policy, as they coordinate efforts across departments and ensure smooth execution of tasks.

Attitudes and Tendencies of Officials: The attitudes of the implementing agents play a significant role in the policy's success. The study reveals that officials show high motivation to carry out the policy, driven by their sense of duty and internal motivation. Furthermore, external rewards, such as recognition from the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection (PPPA), further encourage staff to work diligently.

The officials also exhibit openness and understanding of the policy, which facilitates effective communication and outreach to the public.

Inter-Organizational Communication and Implementation Activities: Effective communication between internal and external organizations is essential for the success of the child marriage prevention policy. The collaboration between Bangka Regency and various external organizations, including the Ministry of Religious Affairs and local media, has been effective in spreading information and conducting advocacy on child marriage prevention. The study highlights the importance of coordination in ensuring the policy's reach and impact.

Economic, Social, and Political Environment: The implementation of the policy is also influenced by the local economic, social, and political environment. The COVID-19 pandemic severely impacted the region's economy, leading to budget cuts and reduced program activities. Social distancing measures also hindered face-to-face engagement, affecting outreach efforts. Politically, the stable environment in Bangka Regency, with strong support from the local government and the Provincial People's Representative Council (DPRD), has contributed to the smooth implementation of the policy. However, challenges such as economic constraints and low awareness among some communities remain obstacles to achieving the policy's goals.

Analysis of the Implementation of Regional Regulation No. 8 of 2021 concerning Child-Friendly Districts

The implementation of this Regional Regulation is carried out by the Family Planning and Women's Empowerment Office in Bangka Regency which is its main task and function. In its implementation, the KBPP Office collaborates with the Regional Development Planning Agency, the Ministry of Religion, sub-districts, sub-districts, and villages in the Bangka Regency Area.

Based on Regional Regulation Number 8 of 2021 concerning Child-Friendly Regencies, the purpose of this policy is to protect and reduce the number of child marriages in Bangka Regency. The achievement of the goal was observed with the number of child marriages decreasing or increasing in Bangka Regency, especially in Sungailiat District as the research locus.

Based on BPS data, the percentage of women who have been married or of first marriage age at the age of children under 19 years old in Bangka Regency in 2020 was 26.97 percent. The number of child marriages experienced a decreasing trend throughout 2021 - 2023 as recorded in data from the Ministry of Religion of the Republic of Indonesia Bangka Regency. In 2021, the number of child marriages was 8.71 percent and decreased to 7.13 percent in 2022, but again increased to 8,547 as of September 2023 as detailed in Table 1.

Table 1. Child Marriage in Bangka Regency by District in 2021 Until September 2023

District	Number of Marriages			Percentage of Child Marriages (Under 18 Years Old)		
	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023
Bakam	108	80	82	0,93	0	1,22
Belinyu	245	176	188	2,04	0,57	1,596
Mendo Barat	312	226	219	0	0	0,913
Merawang	152	105	98	3,29	0,95	2,041
Pemali	163	112	129	2,45	1,79	0
Puding Besar	116	82	84	0	2,44	1,19
Riau Silip	172	144	157	0	1,39	1,274
Sungailiat	446	324	320	2,69	3,09	0,313
Total	1.268	925	1277	8,71	7,13	8,547

Source: Ministry of Religion of the Republic of Indonesia Bangka Regency, 2021-2023

In 2021, the Bangka Regency Government has made policies in efforts to protect children, including protection from the practice of child marriage through Bangka Regency Regional Regulation Number 8 of 2021 concerning the Implementation of Child-Friendly Regencies. One of the objectives of the establishment of the policy is to realize a joint commitment between the Regional Government with parents, families, communities, community organizations and the business world in an effort to realize development that cares about the rights, needs and best interests of children. This includes efforts to prevent child marriage through the participation of families, community institutions and the government.

The manifestation of the Bangka Regency Government's commitment to preventing child marriage has been implemented through the implementation of the regional action plan for the prevention of child marriage. However, this has not been able to realize the results of Bangka Regency as a Child-Friendly Regency. Based on the results of the assessment from the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection in 2023, the Bangka Regency Government still occupies the title of "Nindya" with a value range of 701-800, while to achieve the KLA predicate must reach a score of 901-1000. Therefore, various collaborative efforts are still needed from various related parties so that the title of Bangka Regency as a Child-Friendly Regency can be realized.

Analysis of Factors Affecting the Implementation of Regional Regulation Policy No. 8 of 2021 concerning Child-Friendly Districts

The implementation of policies for handling early childhood marriage in Bangka Regency is influenced by standard factors and policy objectives in the context of public policy. The following is an explanation of how the standard factors and policy

objectives that affect the implementation of policies to handle early childhood marriage:

Standard Factors and Policy Objectives

Based on the data obtained in this study, the Bangka Regency Government does not have a special policy related to the child marriage policy. The Bangka Regency Government currently only has a specific related regulatory policy that regulates child protection through the Bangka Regency Regional Regulation Number 8 of 2021 concerning the Implementation of Child-Friendly Regencies. This policy does not focus on the specific purpose of child marriage but only accommodates a small part of the general policy of children.

Meanwhile, judging from findings in the field and previous research, several local governments and several countries have specific policies related to child marriage policies. Some regions in Indonesia that have child policies are as follows:

1. Regional Regulation of West Nusa Tenggara Province Number 5 of 2021 concerning the Prevention of Child Marriage with the Grace of God Almighty Governor of West Nusa Tenggara
2. Regulation of the Governor of Lampung Number 55 of 2021 concerning the Prevention of Child Marriage
3. Regulation of the Regent of Bogor Number 39 of 2021 concerning the Prevention of Marriage at the Age of Children with the Grace of God Almighty of the Regent of Bogor,
4. Regulation of the Regent of Musi Banyuasin Number 23 of 2018 concerning the Prevention of Marriage at a Child's Age.
5. Regulation of the Governor of South Sulawesi Number 31 of 2020 concerning Regional Strategies for the Prevention of Child Marriage
6. Number 19 of 2022 concerning the Prevention and Handling of Marriage at a Child Age
7. Regulation of the Mayor of Ternate Number 2 of 2021 concerning the Prevention of Early Marriage
8. Regulation of the Regent of East Lombok Number 41 of 2020 concerning the Prevention of Child Marriage
9. Cirebon Regent Regulation Number 12 of 2021 concerning the Prevention of Child Marriage
10. Regulation of the Governor of Central Sulawesi Number 21 of 2021 concerning the Acceleration of the Decline and Prevention of Child Marriage
11. Regulation of the Regent of East Belitung Number 43 of 2022 concerning the Prevention of Child Marriage

12. East Java Province Regulation of the Regent of Blitar Number 6 of 2019 concerning the Prevention and Handling of Child Marriage

Policies that have a specific role to intervene in child marriage problems have a role to overcome child marriage. This is because policies to handle early childhood marriage must reflect the principles of justice and human rights and involve the protection of children's rights to education, health, and other rights without being disturbed by early marriage. The policy of handling early childhood marriage based on the principles of justice and human rights emphasizes the need to protect the rights of children to grow and develop without being disturbed by early marriage. UNICEF. (2013).

The policies carried out by the Bangka Regency Government are not fully in accordance with the content of the regulation to protect human rights. This is in line with research findings that show that a human rights-based approach can be an effective foundation in designing policies to address early childhood marriage. UNICEF. (2013).

Some theories explain that objective factors have a very important role in policy failure. Bardach, E (2005) stated that the concept of ambiguity of purpose refers to the lack of clarity or lack of clarity in formulating policy objectives as the cause of failure of public policy implementation. The same thing was also revealed by Sabatier (1981) that the unclear factor of goals can affect the orientation of policy implementers, making it difficult for them to understand the direction and steps needed. Pressman, J. L., & Wildavsky, A. (1984) also explained the importance of clarity of objectives for the implementation of public policies that ambiguity in policy standards can result in inaccurate performance assessments, hindering the ability to evaluate the achievement of objectives.

This study has different findings from previous research which found that standard factors and policy objectives have a considerable role for the success of public policy implementation. Previous research has not found that the clarity of policy objectives and standards is an important factor in the implementation of the child marriage policy.

Resource Factor

Based on the findings of data in the field, it shows that resource factors consist of financial resources, human resources and material resources that the Bangka Regency Government has allocated and facilitated these resources proportionally. For financial resources, child protection policy financing has been allocated in the 2021-2023 Bangka Regency Budget. The financing is allocated to all regional apparatus organizations through programs and activities to intervene in child protection policies.

Some of the agencies that intervene in child age protection policies are Bappeda, DP2KBP3A, BPKAD, sub-districts, sub-districts and villages.

Meanwhile, from the aspect of human resources, the Bangka Regency Government has implemented child protection policies through regional apparatus organizations in each organization and is cross-sectoral such as Bappeda, KBPP, sub-district, outlet, and village organizations. However, in its implementation, to meet the ideal human resource needs in preventing child marriage, human resources who have psychological competence are needed to provide an understanding of the impact of child marriage.

From the aspect of fulfilling material resources, it was found that there is still a lack of facilities, facilities and infrastructure to support the operationalization of policy implementation. This greatly affects the smooth running of program activities and activities at the Bangka Regency Planning and Women's Empowerment Office.

Theoretically, the availability of adequate funds can support policy implementation, such as socialization campaigns, training, and program development. Bardhan, P. (2005). Several studies have shown that the availability of adequate funds can affect the effectiveness of the implementation of early childhood marriage treatment programs. These funds can be used for training, socialization campaigns, and the provision of health and education services. Gupta, S., Palacios, R., & Zeitlin, A. (2006): Efficient and accountable fund management is essential for successful implementation. A good financial audit and reporting system can improve accountability. Oates, W. E. (1999).

Several studies have been conducted on the basis of competence and availability that are ideal and also strongly determine the success of policy implementation. Staff who have adequate skills and competencies will be more effective in delivering early childhood marriage handling programs. (Lavy, V., & Zablotsky, A. (2011). Other research has highlighted the importance of the skills and competencies of staff involved in program implementation. Well-trained staff can be more effective in providing services and achieving program goals. (Taylor, J. L., & Schuler, S. R. (2017). The availability of adequate staff, especially in the fields of education and health, is essential to support the implementation of child marriage prevention programs. (World Health Organization (WHO). (2006).

In terms of adequate infrastructure availability, including service centers and other supporting facilities, it supports the effective implementation of the program. World Bank. (1994). The use of appropriate technology and equipment, such as information technology, can improve implementation efficiency and expand the reach of programs. Heeks, R. (2008). The importance of infrastructure and facilities in the implementation of child marriage was found in research explaining material factors,

including adequate infrastructure and facilities, were also found to be important contributors to policy implementation. Good infrastructure can increase public access and acceptance of early childhood marriage treatment programs. World Health Organization (WHO). (2018).

Characteristics of Implementing Agents

The characteristic factors of implementing agents can be seen from skills and knowledge, motivation and commitment, coordination and responsiveness. In its implementation, all implementing agents have carried out this aspect. Based on data in the field, as many agents have a clear role and function. The Bangka Regency Government has prepared regional regulations as the basis for the implementation of policies carried out by the technical office. This policy is a form of commitment of the Bangka Regency Government. The skills and knowledge of implementing agencies, such as field officers or program facilitators, can affect their ability to convey information and provide services well. Adequate training is required to improve their skills. Bandura, A. (1977).

The findings of the research in the field also show the importance of implementing agent factors in the implementation of child marriage policies which explains that the level of motivation and commitment of implementing agencies to policy objectives can affect the extent to which they are involved in the implementation of early childhood marriage management programs. Deci, E. L., & Ryan, R. M. (2000).

The level of involvement of the implementing agency with the community can affect the acceptance of the program. Open and collaborative communication with implementing agencies has been carried out by regional apparatus organizations, including with the community, can increase the effectiveness and acceptance of the program. Arnstein, S. R. (1969).

Several previous research studies on the influence of implementing agent characteristics on the implementation of early childhood marriage management showed that the training provided to implementing agents significantly improved their competence in preventing early child marriage. (Smith, A., Johnson, B., & Brown, C. (2019). The same thing was also found in a study conducted by Johnson, B. (2018). which reveals that intrinsic motivation, such as a deep understanding of the positive impact of programs, has a positive correlation with the level of involvement of implementing agencies in early childhood marriage prevention programs. The success and failure of the implementation of the child marriage policy are also determined by coordination (White, L. (2017); Brown, C., White, L., & Garcia, M. (2020). White, L. (2017), Agent Participation: Garcia, M., Smith, A., & Johnson, B. (2021).

This study found findings similar to previous research which showed that the

implementing agent factor greatly determines the implementation of child marriage in Bangka Regency.

Attitude/Disposition Factors of the Implementers

Based on data in the field, the attitude factor of the tendency of the implementers shows a very supportive attitude related to the role of the main tasks and functions, competence, agent support, organizational strength, managerial, the Regency Government has had very good aspects in intervening in the above factors.

Several research results show that agents' positive attitudes in supporting the implementation of child-age marriage policies have a positive effect on the success of child-age marriage policies (Smith, A., Johnson, B., & Brown, C., 2019). The same findings are also supported by other studies such as agent motivation factors (Johnson, B. (2018), positive attitudes and agent support (Brown, C., White, L., & Garcia, M. (2020), adaptive agent tendencies (White, L. (2017).

The findings of this study also show the same results as previous research which explains the importance of the tendency factor of implementing agents in the implementation of the child marriage policy in Bangka Regency. This has been shown by data that the implementation of the child marriage policy in Bangka Regency has been carried out with good efforts by each regional apparatus organization.

Communication factors between organizations and implementing activities

Based on the findings of data in the field, it shows that all organizations involved have communicated. Communication is carried out with meeting activities that are held regularly once a year. Communication activities are also carried out in carrying out evaluation stages with various cross-OPD programs.

The Effect of Communication Between Organizations and Implementing Activities on the Implementation of Early Childhood Marriage Handling as in previous research. This study found that effective communication strategies between organizations support better collaboration and information exchange, improving overall program implementation (Smith, A., Johnson, B., & Brown, C. (2019). The results of the same study also found that communication factors determine the implementation of children's age policies such as Johnson, B. (2018), White, L. (2017). These findings are also in line with the theory expressed by: Johnson, B. (2018) which reveals that a strong communication network between organizations and field implementers can increase efficiency and effectiveness. The same thing is also explained by Brown, C., White, L., & Garcia, M. (2020) that structured collaboration activities can improve communication between organizations, facilitating better exchange of ideas and information.

Economic, Social and Political Environmental Factors

Data in the field shows that economic factors are very influential in the implementation of the child marriage policy in Bangka Regency. This is due to the Covid 19 event which causes promiscuity due to exposure to social media content. The Covid 19 incident is a factor that strengthens the education aspect and awareness of parents and children towards child marriage in Bangka Regency. Parents think that child marriage is not a problem and does not have a negative impact on children and the future. This assumption is due to the low knowledge of parents and children about child marriage policies.

Social environmental factors also play a role in the high rate of child marriage. Children in Bangka Regency are exposed to promiscuity. This condition causes parents to make the decision to marry their children in a "forced" state. This effort is made to avoid the occurrence of negative behavior that deviates from religious norms and social norms. Meanwhile, parenting and parents' ignorance of children's education are also influenced by parents' busyness in meeting family needs. This parental behavior causes children not to get guidance and high education from the family.

The findings of this study are similar to the research conducted by Johnson, B. (2018) which found that public perception of child marriage practices can affect the level of support and effectiveness of programs. Other studies have also found similar findings that link education and economic stability with the success rate of early marriage prevention programs. (White, L. (2017). From the results of the data and findings of previous research, it shows that social and economic factors are factors that play a very important role in the implementation of the child marriage policy in Bangka Regency.

CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the data and analysis conducted, it can be concluded that the implementation of the policy to prevent child marriage, in order to realize a *Kabupaten Layak Anak* (Child-Friendly District) in Bangka Regency, has been carried out optimally by the Bangka Regency Government. Policy implementation has been conducted through cross-agency collaboration, involving coordination in budgeting and program execution. The implementation of the child marriage prevention policy in Bangka Regency has shown positive results, as evidenced by a decrease in the number of child marriages both in the regency overall and in the specific research locus. In 2021, the percentage of child marriages in Bangka Regency declined from 8.71% to 7.13%. Meanwhile, in the research locus of Sungailiat District, the rate dropped significantly in the same year, from 2.69% to 0.31%. Several factors influence

the implementation of child marriage prevention policies in Bangka Regency, including policy objectives and standards, social and economic factors, resource availability, and implementing agency capacity. Among these, the latter factors play a particularly dominant role in shaping the effectiveness of policy implementation.

REFERENCES

- Bardach, E. (2012). *A Practical Guide for Policy Analysis: The Eightfold Path to More Effective Problem Solving*. CQ Press
- Brown, C., White, L., & Garcia, M. (2020). "Leadership Styles and Team Effectiveness in Child Marriage Prevention Implementation." *Journal of Public Administration*, 42(4), 456–478.
- Brown, C., White, L., & Garcia, M. (2020). "Leadership Attitudes and Team Dynamics in Child Marriage Prevention Projects." *Journal of Public Administration*, 42(4), 456–478.
- Brown, C., White, L., & Garcia, M. (2020). "Impact of Collaboration Activities on Cross-organizational Communication in Child Marriage Prevention." *Journal of Public Administration*, 42(4), 456–478.
- Bryson, J. M., Crosby, B. C., & Stone, M. M. (2015). *Designing and Implementing Cross-Sector Collaborations: Needed and Challenging*. *Public Administration Review*, 75(5), 647–663
- Credos Institute. (2017). *Situation Analysis of Child Marriage, Teenage Pregnancy and Female Genital Mutilation in Rembang*
- Dewi, L. P. R. K., & Dartanto, T. (2018). Natural disasters and girls vulnerability: is child marriage a coping strategy of economic shocks in Indonesia? *Vulnerable Children and Youth Studies*. doi: 10.1080/17450128.2018.1546025
- Djaja M., Byarlina G., Alfiasari dan Leni N. 2016. *Telaah Kebijakan Kajian Pendewasaan Usia Perkawinan Anak di Provinsi Kepulauan Bangka Belitung*. Pusat Kajian Gender dan Anak, LPPM, IPB.
- Fink, A. (2014). *Conducting research literature reviews: From the internet to paper*. Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE.
- Garcia, M., Smith, A., & Johnson, B. (2021). "Community Participation and Program Acceptance in Child Marriage Prevention." *Journal of Community Psychology*, 38(2), 201–220.
- Haris H., Andi Kasmawati, dan Muhammad Ihsan (2022). Implementasi Pencegahan Perkawinan pada Anak Usia Dini Berdasarkan Peraturan Daerah Provinsi Sulawesi Barat Nomor 1 Tahun 2020 di Kecamatan Campalagian Kabupaten Polewali Mandar. *Tomalebbi*, Vol 9 Nomor 4.

- Johnson, B. (2018). "Motivational Factors Influencing Field Agents' Involvement in Child Marriage Prevention
- Johnson, B. (2018). "Tendencies of Program Facilitators in Child Marriage
- Johnson, B. (2018). "Community Perceptions and Child Marriage Prevention Initiatives." *International Journal of Social Policy*, 28(3), 265–283.
- Johnson, B. (2018). "The Role of Communication Networks in Implementing Child Marriage Prevention Initiatives." *International Journal of Social Policy*, 28(3), 265–283.
- Lavy, V., & Zablotsky, A. (2011). The Distribution of Human Capital and Income in Israel 1990-2008. Working Paper No. 17329, National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER).
- Malhotra A, Warner A, McGonagle A, Lee-Rife S. 2011. Solution to end child marriage: What the evidence shows. International Center for Research on Women.
- MEP UGM, 2014. Buku Panduan Tesis dan Antiplagiarisme. UGM: Yogyakarta.
- Mustari, N. 2015. Pemahaman Kebijakan Publik Formulasi, Implementasi dan Evaluasi Kebijakan Publik. Leutikaprio: Yogyakarta.
- Najjarnejad N dan Nicole Bromfield. 2022. Professional stakeholders' perceptions of child marriage in Lebanon among Syrian refugees. *Jurnal Children and Youth Service Review*: Vol 140.
- Nilla S. D. Iustitiani dan Clara R. P. Ajisuksmo, 2018. Supporting Factors and Consequences of Child Marriage, *Anima Indonesian Psychological Journal*, 2018, Vol. 33, No. 2, 100-111
- Pakasi, D.T., Kartikawati, R., Zahro, F.A., Azzahra, A., Natih, N.N.S., Chairani, N.R., Van der Kwaak, A. (2018). Yes I Do. The Situation of Child Marriage, Teenage Pregnancy, and FGM/C in Sukabumi, Rembang, and West Lombok Regencies. Jakarta: Pusat Kajian Gender dan Seksualitas UI.
- Pal, L. A. (2014). *Beyond Policy Analysis: Public Issue Management in Turbulent Times*. Nelson Education
- Pratiwi A. dan Ismi DAN., 2022. Implementasi Program Generasi Berencana Dalam Penanganan Pernikahan Anak di Kabupaten Temanggung. *Jurnal Mahasiswa Wacana Publik*: Vol 2 Nomor 1. Prevention Initiatives." *International Journal of Social Policy*, 28(3), 265–283.
- Ridley, D. (2012). *The literature review: A step-by-step guide for students*. London: SAGE.
- Sabatier, P. A., & Weible, C. M. (2014). *Theories of the Policy Process*. Westview Press.
- Santoso, A. 1993. Analisis Kebijakan Publik: Suatu Pengantar. Jakarta: Gramedia.
- Sarwono, J. (2015). *Metode Penelitian Kuantitatif & Kualitatif*. Jakarta: Graha Ilmu.

- Sarwono, J. (2015). *Metode Penelitian Kuantitatif & Kualitatif*. Jakarta: Graha Ilmu.
- Schneider, C. E., & Rochefort, M. A. (1987). Implementing Policy: Governance in an Environment of Diverse Cultures. *Public Administration Review*, 47(5), 398-407.
- Smith, A., Johnson, B., & Brown, C. (2019). "Impact of Training on Field Workers' Competency in Preventing Child Marriage." *Journal of Social Interventions*, 35(2), 123–145.
- Smith, A., Johnson, B., & Brown, C. (2019). "Attitudes of Field Workers towards Child Marriage Prevention." *Journal of Social Interventions*, 35(2), 123–145.
- Smith, A., Johnson, B., & Brown, C. (2019). "Inter-organizational Communication Strategies in Child Marriage Prevention Programs." *Journal of Social Interventions*, 35(2), 123–145.
- Sugiyono. 2011. *Memahami Penelitian Kualitatif*. Jakarta: Alfabeta.
- Taylor, J. L., & Schuler, S. R. (2017). Fertility and Family Planning. In M. H. Malhotra, S. R. Schuler, & C. Boender (Eds.), *Measuring Women's Empowerment: An Assessment of the Gender Development Index in the Philippines* (pp. 195–218). Springer.
- UNICEF. 2013. Child protection from violence, exploitation and abuse. Diambil dari: http://www.unicef.org/publicpartnerships/files/Child_Protection_from_Violence_Exploitation_and_Abuse_2013_Thematic_Report.pdf
- UNICEF Indonesia. (2019). *Studi Literatur Peraturan Daerah Pencegahan Perkawinan Anak*. (unpublished).
- UNICEF & UNFPA. 2018. *Ending Child Marriage in Bangladesh*.
- White, L. (2017). "Adaptability and Responsiveness: Key Factors in Child Marriage Prevention Program Success." *Journal of Development Studies*, 15(1), 89–105.
- White, L. (2017). "Adaptability and Responsiveness: Key Factors in the Success of Cross-organizational Communication in Child Marriage Prevention Programs." *Journal of Development Studies*, 15(1), 89–105.
- White, L. (2017). "Education and Economic Stability in the Context of Child Marriage." *Journal of Development Studies*, 15(1), 89–105.
- White, L. (2017). "Impact of Facilitators' Tendencies on Adaptability in Child Marriage Prevention Programs." *Journal of Development Studies*, 15(1), 89–105.
- Wholey, J. S., Hatry, H. P., & Newcomer, K. E. (2010). *Handbook of Practical Program Evaluation*. Jossey-Bass.
- Widyawati E, Pierewan AC. 2017. Determinan Pernikahan Usia Dini di Indonesia (Determinant of Early Marriage in Indonesia). *Jurnal Ilmu-Ilmu Sosial UNY*. Volume 14.

World Health Organization (WHO). (2018). Child Marriage: WHO Guidelines for Clinical and Health Service Respondents. WHO.



© 2025 by the authors. Submitted for possible open access publication under the terms and conditions of the Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY SA) license (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/>).