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# Early Marriage in Provinces with the Highest Cases in Terms of Parental Support and Self-Concept

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**Abstract:** The ideal age for marriage is 21 years for women and 25 years for men. Globally, Indonesia is included in the 10 countries with the highest rates of early marriage in the world, which has a negative impact on all aspects of life. Psychologically, early marriage has an impact on psychological trauma caused by children not being ready to settle down, loss of playing time, and difficulties in creating a quality family. The aim of this research is to determine whether there is an influence between parental support and self-concept and early marriage. This research is quantitative with a sample size of 264 teenagers determined using cluster random sampling technique. Data was collected using a Likert scale instrument and analyzed using regression analysis. The results show that there is a joint relationship between parental support and self-concept with early marriage of 60.8% with the categorization of high early marriage (55.68%). Therefore, this research is important to provide insight for the nation's future generations so that they do not marry too early which can have a bad impact on the future.

Keywords: Early marriage, parental support, self-concept

## 1. Introduction

Early marriage occurs in many corners of the world with various backgrounds and is of concern to the international community considering the risks arising from forced marriage. Underage marriage is also still a serious challenge that the Indonesian nation must face. Based on United Nations Development Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) data, it is stated that Indonesia is one of the countries with a relatively high incidence of early marriage, namely 34% (Afdhal & Arsi, 2022). Globally, Indonesia is included in the 10 countries with the highest rate of early marriage in the world, which has a negative impact on all aspects of life (Hermambang et al, 2021).

According to the BKKBN, the ideal age for marriage is 21 years for women and 25 years for men. A man and woman who marry before that age can be referred to as marrying at a young age or what is better known as early marriage (Mauluddin & Novianti, 2020). Marriage Law No. 1 of 1974 has been revised to become Marriage Law No. 16 of 2019 in article 7 states that marriage is only permitted if a man and woman reach the age of 19. Even though the declaration of the law explicitly opposes child marriage, ironically, the practice of early marriage still takes place in various regions and this reflects the protection of the human rights of this age group. neglected young people (Almahisa & Agustian, 2021).

The results of the latest press release from the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection on Number: B-031/SETMEN/HM.02.04/01/2023 report that cases of early marriage in Indonesia are very worrying considering that in 2022 there will be 55,000 applications for early marriage, so that The government needs to take preventative measures to take steps such as increasing parenting capacity and access to services, developing children's abilities, opening up and equalizing access, strengthening family social ties, developing physical (including reproductive) and mental health policies, achieving 12 years of formal education and empowerment for livelihoods (Kemen PPPA, 2023).

In Indonesia there are more than one million women aged 20-24 years whose first marriage occurred at the age of less than 18 years (1.2 million people). Meanwhile, there were 61.3 thousand women aged 20-24 years who had their first marriage before the age of 15. Child marriages under the age of 15 may not reflect the true prevalence because many of these marriages are disguised as underage marriages or unregistered marriages (Handayani et al, 2020). On a national scale, there are five provinces with the highest percentage of early marriage, namely West Sulawesi 17.71%, West Nusa Tenggara 16.59%, Central Kalimantan 15.47%, South Kalimantan 15.3% and Bangka Belitung Islands 14.05%

(Sulbarexpress, 2023). This is the reason why researchers are interested in researching early marriage in West Sulawesi, apart from having the highest percentage in Indonesia, West Sulawesi also has an increasing trend in cases of early marriage compared to the previous year with a percentage of 17.12%. Adolescence is known as the age of individuals who are emotionally unstable and want to explore many things, so adolescent decision making should also involve family or parents because adolescents are not yet able to make decisions wisely, even for things that are risky, adolescents also often continue to do so without much consideration, including the subject of this research is getting married at an early age (Santrock, 2003). Early marriage is underage marriage, in this case the preparation of a child or teenager has not been fully optimal, both in mental, psychological and even material preparation. When marriage is carried out at an early age, teenagers do not have enough knowledge about marriage, family, and do not know how to manage conflict well. So, this will cause problems in domestic life.

Problems arising from early marriage range from not fulfilling the 12 year compulsory education, divorce, poverty, risky pregnancies, childbirth, sexual violence, domestic violence, high maternal and child mortality rates to not achieving sustainable development goals, psychologically insecurity. psychological well-being and mental health of teenagers who marry at a young age, so this has become an urgency for research related to early marriage (Akbar & Halim, 2020). Psychologically, early marriage has an impact on psychological trauma caused by children not being ready and understanding about sexual relations, eliminating children's playing time and enjoying children's free time, and can have an impact on difficulties in creating a quality family (Nurseha & Pertiwi, 2019). There are several things that cause early marriage, such as parental support which is thought to have an important role in the occurrence of early marriage, as well as children's self-concept. Based on data from the West Sulawesi Provincial Secretary, the biggest factors triggering the high number of cases of early marriage are family parenting patterns, teenage behavior, parental support due to economic problems or marriage by accident problems and so on (Sulbarexpress, 2023).

In line with the opinion of the Ministry of PPPA (2023) that one of the factors in early marriage is encouragement from parents who want their children to get married quickly and children do not have the ability to weigh risks and view marriage at a young age as a way to enjoy adolescence and it is reported that 34% are due to pregnancy factors. which means teenagers have a low self-concept. Parental support is encouragement of physical and psychological comfort provided by parents so that individuals feel loved, cared for, valued, valuable and part of the family (Astuti & Soeharto, 2021). The aspects of parental support according to Astuti & Soeharto (2021) are aspects of emotional support, appreciation support, instrumental support and information support.

Self-concept is a mental image consisting of how individuals see themselves as individuals, how individuals feel about themselves, and how individuals want themselves to be as individuals expect (Hartanti, 2018). The aspects of self-concept according to Hartanti (2018) consist of aspects, namely aspects of the physical self, family self, personal self, moral-ethical self and social self.

Researchers are interested in researching the topics explained above because no research has been found that links together the variables of parental support and self-concept to the tendency for early marriage. So, the formulation of the problem in this research is whether there is an influence between parental support and self-concept and early marriage.?

## 2. Literature Review

Early marriage is a marriage that is legal, religious or customary or without official registration where one or both partners are children under the age of 18 (Subchi et al, 2020). Early marriage can be interpreted as a marriage carried out by a couple who is not yet old enough, so strict policies are needed regarding the minimum age limit because at a young age they are not ready to carry out a marriage (Sofiani, 2022). Law No. 16 of 2019 states that marriage is only permitted if the man and woman have reached the age of 19 years. Aspects of attitude tendencies according to Putra & Sulaiman (2023) to reveal the problem of early marriage are as follows: a) Cognitive aspect an individual's view of something is based on the knowledge they have. Components related to knowledge and beliefs. In the context of this research, it describes how teenagers view early marriage; b) Affective aspect, individuals perceive things based on emotions or reactions to positive and negative assessments of a behavior. In this case, it describes how teenagers feel about early marriage, whether early marriage is something positive (fun, interesting) or negative (scary, wants to avoid); c) Conative aspect, this aspect relates to an individual's reaction or response to an object. This component is related to the tendency of teenagers to decide to marry at an early age. This component shows the intensity of attitude, namely showing the size of teenagers' tendency towards early marriage.

Several factors that influence the occurrence of early marriage according to the results of a survey by the Central Statistics Agency (BPS, 2020) in collaboration with UNICEF are as follows:

#### a) External Factors

## 1) Married by Accident

The majority of early marriages are influenced by MBA or premarital pregnancy. As a result of today's teenagers being too free in dating, it ends up causing them to have sex before marriage and the result is getting pregnant outside of marriage, so the solution is to marry them off even though they are still young (Nabila & Al Kaswy, 2021).

#### 2) Parental Support

Parents are a child's closest environment, as parents they should be able to guide and direct children to act so that they don't make mistakes in making decisions, especially those related to the future or long-term life. Parents have an important role, and are the ones who know best the psychological and mental conditions of their children (Carbone & Cahn, 2011). So, in the case of marriage, parents also have a big influence on this because no matter what, a child will definitely obey what is directed by both parents, because a child is still at the stage of development in his/her personality character and still needs direction and the role of both people. old to them.

#### 3) Peers

The influence of peers in adolescence is very strong, this can lead to a trend of marrying young on the basis of joining in, which in psychological terms is called peer conformity. Teenagers are in the phase of wanting to show their identity and need recognition, so they will do everything they can without considering the risks (Giletta et al., 2021).

#### 4) Economy

Often girls are perceived as being an economic burden on the family because they have many needs that must be met by their parents. So, marriage at a young age is considered the most appropriate way to get relief from the economic burden. In rural communities, this usually still happens frequently and this is only based on the fact that every marriage brings good fortune (Scott et al., 2021).

#### 5) Education

Education is a factor that influences a person's perception, with higher education a person will more easily receive and choose information to carry out all actions carefully and with consideration. The level of education describes the level of maturity in thinking and responding to the environment which can influence insight into thinking or responding to the knowledge around them (Bawono et al., 2019). Early marriage often occurs among children with low education or parents and families with low education so they do not have careful consideration before making a decision.

#### b) Internal Factors

#### 1) Self-concept

Self-concept is how a person sees themselves and how to become the person they want to be. Self-concept or a teenager's perspective on themselves and the world around them can be formed through interaction with the environment (Umami, 2019). This world is viewed through the meaning and awareness felt by the perpetrator of early marriage so that it influences their self-concept, because self-concept influences the personality and actions of the teenager.

#### 2) Motivation

Motivation is the desire/drive to do something/willingness to put in a lot of effort to achieve a certain goal. Most teenagers who decide to get married are more motivated not to continue their education anymore and feel that they already have their soul mate and don't want to let go, so they want to get married immediately so that they can be tied into a marriage bond (Arbelia & Riany, 2022). In some cases, they end up having to grant early marriage because teenagers are really encouraged to get married immediately without considering the risks they will face.

## 3) Emotional Intelligence

Emotional intelligence is an individual's ability to recognize one's own feelings and the feelings of others and the ability to manage emotions well in oneself and in relationships with others. According to psychological development theory, teenagers have an unstable emotional level, meaning that the decision taken by teenagers to marry early is very dangerous because it is not full of consideration and could just be euphoria (Hajihasani & Sim, 2019). After marriage, teenagers will interact with their partners and the wider community environment. If emotional intelligence has not been formed then social life will not run optimally.

#### 4) Future Orientation

The attitude shown or direction of a person's stance (tendency) regarding one's readiness to determine appropriate future choices or views on future hopes. If teenagers do not have a future orientation, they tend to more easily decide to marry at an early age which is full of risks (Rifandanu & Febrianti, 2023).

Parental support is encouragement of physical and psychological comfort provided by parents so that individuals feel loved, cared for, valued, valuable and part of the House et al family (Idawati et al., 2023). Parental support felt by children is in the form of both physical and psychological support. Based on the description above, it can be concluded that the social support aspect according to Pratiwi & Rahmi (2022) consists of emotional, appreciation, instrumental and information support aspects.

Self-concept is a mental image consisting of how individuals see themselves as a person, how individuals feel about themselves, and how individuals want themselves to be as individuals expect (Lorinda et al., 2023). Self-concept is a description of a person's self, both perceptions of the real self and assessments based on one's expectations so that self-concept is a description of a person's self, both perceptions of the actual self and assessments based on expectations (Chandler & Lawrence, 2022).

## 3. Methodology

This research is quantitative with a correlational approach with the aim of detecting the level of influence of variables in a factor based on the correlation coefficient, the dependent variable is early marriage and the independent variables are parental support and self-concept. Data analysis uses regression analysis. The population in this study were teenagers in West Sulawesi Province with the following criteria: 1) teenagers who are members of PIK R, and 2) still have complete parents or one (father or mother only).

The total population that meets the criteria is 315 people. The sample used in this research was determined using cluster random sampling techniques. According to Azwar (2019) cluster random sampling is a technique for determining samples in a random way, where in this case what is determined randomly is groups, not individuals or individuals. The population consisted of 6 districts, so the researcher determined randomly using lottery to determine the 5 districts that would be used in the research. The districts that were not selected as samples were Mamasa district, consisting of 51 teenagers, while the remaining 264 teenagers were used as research samples. The number of samples according to the table of Isaac and Michael in (Sugiyono, 2016) states that with a population of 300-320 people with an error level of 1%, the number of samples that must be fulfilled is 207-216, while at an error level of 5% the number of samples is 161-167 person. So, the determination of the sample size of 264 that the researchers used met the criteria in the research.

The data collection method uses a Likert scale type consisting of 4 answer options. Some of these statements are favorable and unfavourable. To show the score on the scale, the following norms for assessing answers are determined in Table 1.

Scale Answers	Item score favourable	Item score unfavourable
Very suitable (SS)	4	1
Compliant (S)	3	2
Not compliant (TS)	2	3
Highly unsuitable (STS)	1	4

Table 1 - Scoring system on a scale.

Table 2 - Blueprint early marriage scale before tria	Table 2 -	<b>Blueprint</b>	early m	ıarriage	scale	before	tria
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No	Aspect	Favorable	Unfavorable	Total
1	Cognitive aspect	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22	12
2	Affective aspect	7, 8, 9, 10, 11	23, 24, 25, 26, 27	10
3	Conative aspect	12, 13, 14, 15, 16	28, 29, 30, 31, 32	10
	Total	16	16	32

Based on the results of trials 32 items on the early marriage scale 2 items were dropped that is number 7 and 9. So the remaining 30 items is valid. Blueprint for item distribution after the trial is as follows.

Table 3 - Blueprint early marriage scale after trial.

No	Aspect	Favorable	Unfavorable	Total
1	Cognitive aspect	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21	12
2	Affective aspect	7, 8, 9, 10	22, 23, 24, 25, 26	9
3	Conative aspect	11, 12, 13, 14, 15	27, 28, 29, 30	9
	Total	15	15	30

Table 4 - Blueprint parental support scale before trial.

No	Aspect	Favorable	Unfavorable	Total
1	Aspects of emotional support	1, 2, 3, 4	17, 18, 19, 20	8
2	Aspects of reward support	5, 6, 7, 8	21, 22, 23, 24	8
3	Aspects of instrumental support	ort 9, 10, 11, 12	25, 26, 27, 28	8
4	Aspects of information suppo	rt 13, 14, 15, 16	29, 30, 31, 32	8
	Total	16	16	32

Based on the results of trials 32 items on the early marriage scale 3 items were dropped that is number 4, 11 and 23. So the remaining 29 items is valid. Blueprint for item distribution after the trial is as follows.

Table 5 - Blueprint for parental support after trial.

No	Aspect	Favorable	Unfavorable	Total
1	Aspects of emotional support	1, 2, 3	15, 16, 17, 18	7
2	Aspects of reward support	4, 5, 6, 7	19, 20, 21	7
3	Aspects of instrumental support	8, 9, 10, 11	22, 23, 24, 25	8
4	Aspects of information support	rt 12, 13, 14	26, 27, 28, 29	7
	Total	14	15	29

Table 6 - Blueprint for self-concept before trial.

No	Aspect	Favorable	Unfavorable	Total
1	Physical self	1, 2, 3	16, 17, 18	6
2	Family self	4, 5, 6	19, 20, 21	6
3	Personal self	7, 8, 9	22, 23, 24	6
4	Moral-ethical self	10, 11, 12	25, 26, 27	6
5	Social self	13, 14, 15	28, 29, 30	6
	Total	15	15	30

Based on the results of trials 32 items on the early marriage scale 2 items were dropped that is number 5 and 30. So the remaining 28 items is valid. Blueprint for item distribution after the trial is as follows.

Table 7 - Blueprint for self-concept before trial.

No	Aspect	Favorable	Unfavorable	Total
1	Physical self	1, 2, 3	15, 16, 17	6
2	Family self	4, 5	18, 19, 20	5
3	Personal self	6, 7, 8	21, 22, 23	6
4	Moral-ethical self	9, 10, 11	24, 25, 26	6
5	Social self	12, 13, 14	27, 28	5
	Total	14	14	28

The initial stage of the research was to prepare a proposal and measuring tools. The trial was carried out from 31 October to 04 November 2023 on 51 teenagers who were members of PIK R in Mamasa Regency, West Sulawesi. Trial data was taken using the scale loaded on Google Form at the link <a href="https://forms.gle/1vAKgNjwBczDVc8M8">https://forms.gle/1vAKgNjwBczDVc8M8</a>. All subjects filled out the scale completely, so that no test subjects were declared disqualified, then the data obtained were analyzed using the Microsoft computer program. Excel and SPSS then the data results are interpreted in the form of validity and reliability tests

After the trial results, research data was collected and then scored and analyzed. The research was conducted from November 20 to November 30 2023 on 264 teenagers using the scale published on Google Form at the link <a href="https://forms.gle/D2Pi8Mx2dBxjZ4ap9">https://forms.gle/D2Pi8Mx2dBxjZ4ap9</a>. The data obtained were analyzed using the Microsoft computer program. Excel and SPSS then the data results are interpreted.

## 4. Results

Data obtained from answers to the early marriage scale, self-concept and parental support were used as a reference in describing the research results by comparing hypothetical scores with empirical scores. Descriptive analysis was carried out to determine the minimum, maximum, distribution distance, standard deviation and average values. These results are then used as the basis for categorization of research data. A summary of hypothetical data and empirical data can be seen in the following Table 8.

Table 8 - Hypothetical and empirical data.

Variable	I	Hypothetical data			Empirical data			
v ar iable	Min	Max	Mean	SD	Min	Max	Mean	SD
Early-age marriage	30	120	75	15	60	117	88.5	9.5
Parental support	29	116	72.5	14.5	58	106	82	8
Self-concept	28	112	70	14	56	110	83	9

Researchers also categorized data on the scale of early marriage, self-concept and parental support to obtain information about the subject's condition in more depth with the following results in Fig. 1.

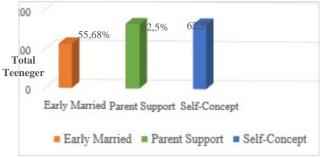


Fig. 1 - Categorization of research variables.

Before analyzing the data in the hypothesis test, it is necessary to test the assumptions of research data are as follows in Table 9.

Variable Kolmogorov **Information** p Smirnov Z Early-age marriage 0.045 0.200 Normal Parental Support 0.046 0.200 Normal 0.048 Self-concept 0.200 Normal

Table 9 - Result of normality test.

Table 10 - Result of linearity test.

Variable Y	Variable Y X	Val	ue	Information
variable i	variable 1 A	F	р	IIIIOI IIIauoii
Early-age	Parental Support	115.087	0.344	Linier
marriage	Self-concept	124.387	0.083	Linier

The data is known to be normally and linearly distributed, then the following hypothesis test is carried out.

Variable	Correlation Value (R)	R Square	F	р
$X_1$ and $X_2$ toward $Y$	0.780	0.608	202.600	0.000
X <sub>1</sub> toward Y	0.673	0.453	216.929	0.000
X <sub>2</sub> toward Y	0.699	0.488	249.908	0.000

Table 11 - Linear regression analysis results.

Based on the results of the multiple linear regression analysis above which was used to test the hypothesis, the results are known to be 1) there is a mutual relationship between parental support and self-concept and early marriage; 2) there is a relationship between parental support and early marriage; 3) there is a relationship between self-concept and early marriage.

The effective contribution of parental support and self-concept in predicting early marriage is 60.8%, while the remaining 39.2% is influenced by other factors not examined in this study. The respective contributions, namely parental support with early marriage, amounted to 45.3% and the contribution of the self-concept variable with early marriage amounted to 48.8.

## 5. Discussion

Based on the results of hypothesis testing in this research, it is known that the three hypotheses are accepted. The first hypothesis is that there is a relationship between parental support and early marriage. The second hypothesis is that there is a relationship between self-concept and early marriage. The third hypothesis is that there is a joint relationship between parental support and self-concept with early marriage

The first hypothesis is that there is a mutual relationship between parental support and self-concept with early marriage. Proven by a correlation value of 0.780 (p<0.01), this means that the first hypothesis is accepted. The acceptance of the hypothesis in this research is in line with the Perceived Behavioral Control theory put forward by Ajzen (2002),

there is consideration of internal control factors and external control factors that encourage individuals to do something, in the case of this research is early marriage in teenagers. If these internal and external factors together stimulate an individual to intend to carry out an action, then the individual will also tend to realize that intention.

In this research, the internal factor is self-concept and the external factor of parental support. These two factors together will strengthen individuals to tend to marry at an early age, because they are supported by encouragement from within themselves as well as from the environment.

Parents have an important role, and are the ones who know best the psychological and mental conditions of their children. So, in the case of marriage, parents also have a big influence on this because no matter what, a child will definitely obey what is directed by both parents, because a child is still at the stage of development in his/her personality character and still needs direction and the role of both people. their parents (Nasrul, 2022). Likewise, the self-concept of every teenager who marries early will have and live in a world that is personal and subjective. This world is viewed through the meaning and awareness felt by teenagers so that it influences their self-concept, because self-concept influences personality and actions in deciding to marry as a teenager (Adrilianza & Salam, 2021).

This dynamic relationship is in accordance with the opinion of Indanah et al. (2020) that external and internal factors together tend to make teenagers decide to marry at an early age without considering the impacts and risks involved. Because teenagers feel social validation when their parents support young marriages. So high parental support and low self-concept will have a strong influence on teenagers' tendency to marry at an early age.

The results of this study also showed that there were 5 (1.89%) early marriages in the low category, 112 (42.42%) in the medium category and 147 (55.68%) in the high category. It can be concluded that early marriage is in the high category. The effective contribution of parental support and self-concept in predicting early marriage is 60.8%, while the remaining 39.2% is influenced by other factors not examined in this study.

The second hypothesis is that there is a relationship between parental support and early marriage. The higher parental support, the lower the level of early marriage, conversely, the lower the parental support, the higher the level of early marriage. Proven by a correlation value of 0.673 (p<0.01), this means the second hypothesis is accepted.

The acceptance of the hypothesis in this research strengthens the opinion of Kurniawan and Yusuf (2021) that parents are the closest social environment of a child so that parental support can then provide a good understanding to children in this case about marriage, where parents can provide related matters. in marriage as a whole so that children can have mature knowledge and consideration about marriage.

Previous research results show that the higher the social support from parents, the lower the rate of early marriage, conversely, the lower the support from parents, the higher the rate of early marriage (Arianto, 2019). The importance of the role of parental support in preventing early marriage is also written in West Sulawesi Province Regional Regulation No. 1 of 2020 concerning the child protection system which states that family and parents are the closest environment that guides and cares for teenagers, so the role of parents together with local government policies is very influential on cases. early marriage. The development of teenagers' brains and personalities is still in the process of maturation, so teenagers still need a social environment to control their behavior (Piaget, 2002).

The results of this study also showed that parental support in the low category was 26 (9.85%), in the medium category was 165 (62.5%) and in the high category was 73 (27.65%). It can be concluded that parental support is in the medium category. The effective contribution of parental support to early marriage is 45.3%. Based on the description above, it can be concluded that parental support can influence early marriage. The higher parental support, the lower the level of early marriage, and vice versa, the lower the parental support, the higher the level of early marriage.

The third hypothesis is that there is a relationship between self-concept and early marriage. The higher the self-concept, the lower the early marriage, conversely, the lower the self-concept, the higher the early marriage. Proven by a correlation value of 0.699 (p<0.01), this means that the third hypothesis is accepted.

The acceptance of the hypothesis in this research is in line with research by Adrilianza and Salam (2021) which proves that there is a relationship between self-concept and early marriage. The higher the self-concept, the lower the early marriage, conversely, the lower the self-concept, the higher the early marriage. The decision to marry at an early age can certainly be avoided if teenagers have a good self-concept. Teenagers with a good self-concept can certainly control themselves in protecting themselves from negative things that can damage a teenager's self-thinking pattern (Ligit, 2016).

The results of this study also showed that self-concept was in the low category as many as 30 (11.36%), in the medium category as many as 165 (62.5%) and in the high category as many as 69 (26.14%). The effective contribution of self-concept to early marriage is 48.8. Based on the description above, it can be concluded that self-concept can influence early marriage. The higher the self-concept, the lower the early marriage, and vice versa, the lower the self-concept, the higher the early marriage.

#### 6. Conclusion

Based on the results of data analysis and discussion of the results of this research, it can be concluded that there is a mutual relationship between parental support and self-concept with early marriage at 60.8% while the remaining 39.2% is influenced by other factors not examined in this research. The influence of each variable is known for the effective

contribution of parental support to early marriage of 45.3% and the effective contribution of self-concept to early marriage of 48.8%.

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## **Conflict of Interest**

The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

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