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# FACTORS INFLUENCING THE DECLINE IN MARRIAGE RATES IN PADANGSIDIMPUAN

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### KEYWORDS

Factors, Marriage, Padangsidempuan. Factors, Marriage, Padangsidempuan.

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### ABSTRACT

This study discusses the factors that influence the decline in the marriage rate in Padangsidempuan, nowadays many people including the government, historians, and the general public, are paying attention to the decline in the marriage rate. This downward trend is increasingly visible in several areas in Indonesia, such as Padangsidempuan. Many factors influence the decline in the number of marriages. Humans are by nature social creatures, who cannot live alone without the help of others. Therefore, humans are created in pairs to be able to share emotional and physical. Marriage as a basic social institution not only reflects the relationship between two individuals, but also has a significant impact on social structure, family sustainability, and the welfare of society as a whole. The decline in the number of marriages can cause various problems and the economy. There are certain factors that contribute to this change, such as shifts in values or economic factors. Knowing the views on this is important to formulate appropriate policies and find effective solutions. In this article, the research method used is the writing method using library research by collecting various sources of library studies

## INTRODUCTION

Basically, humans will continue to develop according to the age stages they are going through and are adjusted to the developmental tasks at those developmental stages. These developmental tasks must be achieved by individuals to form self-maturity. In their development, individuals must experience a transition period from adolescence to adulthood, namely early adulthood which starts from the age of 18 to the age of 40. One of the developmental tasks that is typical of individuals in the young adult stage is forming a commitment or important attachment relationship with the opposite sex through marriage. In addition, there are also other developmental tasks that must be carried out by early adult individuals, namely entering the world of work. The developmental tasks that are characteristic of early adulthood are starting a career and starting to form a commitment with a life partner.

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Marriage cannot be done if there is no opposite sex. It is the law of nature or the law of nature that by nature every human being is created in pairs, all creatures are created in pairs, there are men and women, there are males and females, there is day and night (Saebani, 2013). In popular language, unmarried men or women will be lonely, unhappy, and against their sexual urges, and the period of parenthood, the alluring affection of the opposite sex and the prestige that can be obtained from family life and marriage. Furthermore, because early adulthood is a lonely time when radical adjustments must be made in every area of life, many adults feel that marriage will help them make these adjustments (Hurlock, 2002). In fostering a harmonious family, the most important thing is to maintain family harmony by understanding each other's rights and obligations (Sainul, 2020)

Many people, including the government, historians, and the general public, have noticed a decline in the marriage rate. This downward trend is increasingly visible in several regions in Indonesia, such as Padangsidempuan. Many factors influence the decline in the number of marriages; These include changes in societal perspectives, economic conditions, and changes in traditional and religious values. Padangsidempuan, a city in North Sumatra, has different social and cultural characteristics. Traditions and customs are still very important in people's lives. However, the way the younger generation views marriage is changing over time. It is believed that a number of factors, including increasing awareness of individual rights, economic issues, and the importance of education, have contributed to the decline in marriage rates in the region. The decline in marriage rates may also have an impact on various aspects of life, such as social stability and family structure, and population growth. Therefore, further investigation is needed to understand the components that influence the decline in marriage rates in Sidempuan and the consequences it brings.

Marriage as a basic social institution not only reflects the relationship between two individuals, but also has a significant impact on social structure, family sustainability, and the welfare of society as a whole. From a population administration perspective, marriage is a life event that must be reported and recorded by the relevant agencies that handle civil and population registration.

Marriage registration is not only important for married individuals but also forms the basis for formulating sustainable social policies in Indonesia. In recent years, there has been an increase in the number of divorces which has a direct impact on the decline in the number of marriages. Based on official data from the Ministry of Religion, in 2023 there were 463,654 divorce cases recorded (Ningtias, I. S, 2022). Changes in people's life priorities are also a major factor in the decline in the number of marriages. Many individuals feel that marriage carries great responsibility, both financially and emotionally. Some people even think that their main priority in life is not marriage, but career development. The role of women in modern society has also undergone major changes. Many women choose to focus on career achievement and economic stability before deciding to get married (Sri Lestari, 2024). As a major social institution, marriage has played an important role in social structures throughout the world, including Indonesia. Marriage is considered an important step in an individual's life journey in many cultures, and is a symbol of commitment and family formation. On the other hand, the decline in marriage rates in various regions has become a public concern lately. The marriage rate in Padangsidempuan City, North Sumatra, has decreased drastically. From 1,500 marriages in 2018 to around 1,200 marriages in 2023

## **METHOD**

This study uses library research or what is known as library research. The data and materials in this study are sourced from library studies and the internet. The data analysis method used is a qualitative method, where the data analysis carried out is by recording and classifying the data that has been obtained (Arikunto, S, 2019). Data analysis in qualitative research itself is carried out simultaneously with the data collection process (Sugiyono, 2019).

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

According to Subekti as quoted by Siti Fatimah, marriage is a legal relationship between a man and a woman for a very long time. Marriage is one of the very important events in the life of our society, because marriage does not only concern the prospective bride and groom, but also the parents of both parties, their siblings, and even their respective families (Fatimah, 2009). Meanwhile, according to Abu Yahya Zakaria Al-Anshasy as quoted by Abdul Rahman Ghozaly, marriage according to the term sharia is a contract that contains legal provisions regarding the permissibility of sexual relations with the word marriage or words that have the same meaning. Marriage according to sharia law is a contract that is determined to allow pleasure between men and women and to allow pleasure between women and men (Ghazaly, 2010). Based on the Qur'an and Hadith, marriage comes from the words an-Nikh and az-Ziwaj which mean through, stepping on, walking on, climbing, and having intercourse or having sex (Ghazaly, 2010). Apart from the definition of marriage based on the Qur'an and Hadith, there is also a definition of marriage according to Law No. 1 of 1974, namely a physical and spiritual bond between a man and a woman to live a happy and eternal household based on the one and only God (Imran, 2015).

There are several social factors that play a role in the decline in the number of marriages in Padangsidempuan. These factors are related to the changing dynamics of society, the principles adopted by the younger generation, and the impact of the wider social environment. Here are some important social components:

### **1. Changes in Social Norms and Values**

Changing social norms and values often have a major impact on people's behavior, including marriage relationships. The younger generation in Padangsidempuan has experienced a clear change in their views on the institution of marriage. More and more people are of the opinion that marriage is not a necessity; it is more like a life choice. Social media is also changing the perspective of the younger generation. They adopt new cultures and principles that are often different from the culture of Padangsidempuan City thanks to the ease of access to the internet worldwide. For example, the younger generation in Padangsidempuan can be influenced by Western culture that suppresses individual freedom and the right to choose a partner without being tied to the institution of marriage. As a result, marriage may no longer be necessary for a harmonious relationship.

### **2. Stigma Against Divorce**

An individual's decision to marry is also influenced by the Social Stigma attached to divorce and failed marriages. Many parents and members of the Padangsidempuan community often consider divorce to be unpleasant. As a result, many teenagers or young couples hesitate to get married because they are worried about getting a divorce. A successful marriage is considered an achievement, while a failed one is ridiculed. This stigma causes young couples to often end their marriages to ensure the success of their relationship. To avoid negative stigma, people may not decide to get married, keeping them in a relationship without a formal bond. Most divorces occur in couples who are still newly married, based on what I research and see from people who divorce are caused by cases of Domestic Violence

(KDRT) and even family economy. This causes women to be afraid to get married and choose to become independent women and chase the joana trend.

### 3. Support from Family and Environment

The family plays an important role in a person's decision to marry. In Indonesian culture, there is a very high emphasis on family honor and tradition, and a person's decision to marry is greatly influenced by the support of parents and other family members. In Padangsidempuan, parents are starting to accept their children's decisions to postpone marriage because of education and career. On the other hand, families who do not support marriage enough can slow down a young couple's decision to marry. Families who prioritize education and career over marriage tend to marry less. Young couples may have difficulty planning a future together if family support is uncertain. Some also say that they still want to focus on taking care of their parents first

### 4. Peer Pressure Factor

The influence of peers also plays a role in a person's decision to marry. Some young people in Padangsidempuan tend to follow the habits of their friends, where relationships without formal ties become the new norm. Those who have unmarried peers and are just enjoying the freedom of life may prefer not to marry. Some couples are afraid of rushing into marriage because of pressure from others, which leads to fewer marriages. When someone's relationship seems more fun and has no formal boundaries, they start to think that marriage is not important. Based on my observations, getting married too quickly is not always happy, so friends who are married say not to rush to get married. Therefore, the friend factor also greatly influences marriage. 5. Community response to social developments New ideas about relationships and marriage tend to be more attractive to people who are responsive to social change. In Padangsidempuan, some community groups tend to maintain existing traditions and norms, while others are more ready for change. The younger generation is not sure what to expect from marriage because of the many different perspectives. Because of this closeness, people consider more carefully before getting married. Many teenagers feel the need to achieve their personal goals before getting married. This includes getting a stable job or completing their education.

### 6. Prohibition of same-surname marriage

The prohibition of same-surname marriage is enforced in Sidempuan Tenggara District because same-surname marriage is gradually no longer carried out because Islamic law does not prohibit it. In social customs, it will be considered a choice, or then Love,

elopement, religion, education, economy, and progress are all factors that influence the decline of same-surname marriage. Because of the prohibition of same-surname marriage in the area, male buffaloes are slaughtered, and women take the surname of the mother of the man and their descendants then from the man, it is not permissible for daughters to marry their brothers.

The people of Padangsidempuan Tenggara District are advised to gradually abandon same-surname marriage to change the perspective of society because the Marriage Law and the Islamic religious belief that marriage does not violate.

### 7. Determination of the amount of dowry

Determination of the dowry money or what the Padangsidempuan people know as *sinamot* greatly influences marriage. Many say that the price of the dowry is determined based on the woman's education. However, there are also those who base it on the woman's descent. This has caused men in Padangsidempuan to postpone getting married because they do not have enough money. The results of the study show that, first, the amount of dowry set during the pandemic remains the same as that set before the pandemic, except that it has decreased. Second, there are four components that influence the amount of dowry,

namely social status, education, economy, work, and income. Third, Islam requires that the amount of dowry not be excessive. because it can have a negative impact on the couple and can even cause the marriage to be canceled.

One of the main factors influencing the decline in the number of marriages in Padangsidempuan is social factors. A person's decision to get married is influenced by changing norms and principles, the stigma of divorce, family support, peer influence, and the community's response to social change. In order to make an effective plan to increase the marriage rate in Padangsidempuan while maintaining the principles of the local community, it is important to understand these factors. The benefits of marriage according to Susanti and Shoimah regarding the legality of marriage;

1. As legal proof that the child is legitimate
2. Simplifying child correspondence
3. Legal protection of inheritance rights
4. For the issuance of documents such as population cards
5. Facilitating the government in managing data

In the picture above, it is recorded that the highest marriage rate in 2018 was 1500 marriages. In 2023, the lowest marriage rate was 1200 marriages. According to Mulyadi 2018 in his research, he revealed that today's women prioritize education and career. The same factor was stated by Linda Usriana 2014 in her research, she said that women today find their own pleasure while still young, also have difficulties in the household economy and women also have no interest in the household. Moreover, women who have worked are considered vulnerable to losing their jobs.

## CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the research that has been conducted, there are several factors that influence the decline in the marriage rate in Padangsidempuan, namely changes in norms, social and cultural values where foreign cultures have entered Padangsidempuan City which have caused people to abandon cultures that they consider old-fashioned with inflexible age determination for marriage, the increasing stigma against divorce which has resulted in young people's concerns about getting married so that people, especially young people in Padangsidempuan City, are more focused on improving their finances and mentality before getting married, support from family and the environment which also supports their children not to get married quickly so that they can focus more on their children's careers first, economic factors certainly also influence the decline in the marriage rate due to the increasing unemployment rate which has resulted in many choosing not to get married. The public response to the decline in the marriage rate has become a natural thing considering the current cultural and social developments. The marriage rate in Padangsidempuan has been recorded as having decreased in the last 6 years, it was recorded that the highest marriage rate was in 2018, namely 1500 marriages. 2023 is the lowest marriage rate, namely 1200 marriages. However, it is also necessary to consider the negative impacts if the decline in the marriage rate continues to decline significantly because it can reduce the generations that can advance the Indonesian nation, especially to advance the city of Padangsidempuan. Of course, future generations will be greatly needed, especially to continue the descendants that must actually exist.

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