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"RABI (Remaja Anti Bertindak Nikah Dini)" Short Film: Based on Local Wisdom to Prevent Child Marriage in Agricultural Areas

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Abstract: Early marriage remains a global concern, hindering the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly gender equality. This practice causes a variety of health problems and violates girls' fundamental human rights, including the right to decide when and whom they will marry. This study evaluates the effectiveness of a short film intervention titled RABI (Remaja Anti Bertindak Nikah Dini), which integrates local wisdom to improve knowledge and attitudes regarding early marriage prevention among adolescent girls in Lumajang, Indonesia. A quantitative approach with a one-group pretest-posttest design was used, involving 137 junior and senior high school students from the Puskesmas Rogotrunan. The intervention consisted of a pre-test, a short film screening, and a post-test. Results revealed a significant improvement in students' post-test scores, with a Wilcoxon test p-value of 0.000, indicating the effectiveness of the intervention. The integration of local wisdom in educational videos enhanced message acceptance and comprehension. The contribution of this research to science is that the results can serve as a reference in health education and efforts to prevent early marriage, thereby improving the knowledge and attitudes of adolescents and contributing to the reduction of early marriages and enhancement of adolescent health. This approach can serve as a relevant medium for adolescent education, requiring further implementation with region-specific adjustments. Collaboration between governments, educational institutions, and communities is crucial to reducing early marriage rates in Indonesia.

Keywords: adolescent girls; early marriage; educational film; local wisdom; rabi

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INTRODUCTION

The act of marrying someone who is under 18 years old is known as early marriage (UNFPA, 2022; UNICEF, 2023). This phenomenon has become a global issue because it interferes with the achievement of the *Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)*, particularly the fifth target, which aims to achieve gender equality (UNICEF, 2023; Wahyuningsih et al., 2021). Early marriage hinders the achievement of target 5.3, which aims to end practices that harm girls (Wahyuningsih et al., 2021; Wibowo et al., 2021). Early marriage is considered detrimental as it leads to various health issues and deprives girls of their fundamental human rights, including their ability to choose the right person and time to get married (Fan & Koski, 2022; Islam et al., 2021; Malhotra & Elnakib, 2021; UNFPA, 2022).

Early marriage is an urgent global challenge. Early marriage affects numerous areas, including its influence on reproductive health, as well as mental and psychological well-being, education, economy, and the effect of early marriage on children (Noor et al., 2018). According to a 2023 UNICEF report, approximately 640 million women worldwide were married as children, and it is estimated that about 12 million girls are married before reaching the age of 18 each year (UNFPA, 2022; UNICEF, 2023). Asia is the continent with the most significant contribution to the phenomenon of early marriage, with about 422 million girls marrying before the age of 18 (UNICEF, 2023). In Indonesia, in 2018, 1.2 million girls were married before reaching the age of 18, ranking Indonesia among the 10 countries with the highest early marriage rates worldwide (BPS et al., 2020; UNICEF, 2023).

Most people are not yet aware of the dangers of pregnancy or childbirth for mothers who marry at the age of less than 20 years (Rosuliana et al., 2020). The Badan Pusat Statistik (BPS) of East Java noted that in 2023, the number of marriages involving individuals under 17 in East Java is expected to reach 19.49% of the total number of marriages. A higher percentage was recorded in Lumajang Regency, where 30.37% of marriages involved individuals under the age of 17, accounting for all marriages. This figure places Lumajang in the district with the fifth highest number of marriages involving individuals under 17 years old in East Java (Badan Pusat Statistik Jawa Timur, 2023). Lumajang is one of the districts with ample agricultural land, and most of the population works in the agricultural sector. According to Kurniyawan et al. (2023), agricultural practices encompass agriculture, farming, plantations, fisheries, livestock rearing, and agro-industrial activities. Conversely, a significant portion of the population possesses a limited level of education (Badan Pusat Statistik Lumajang, 2016). Notably, early marriage is significantly influenced by educational and economic factors (Malunga et al., 2023). Individuals with low educational attainment and socioeconomic status tend to marry at

a younger age (Marphatia et al., 2020). As a result, girls who marry early often drop out of school, reducing their chances of getting a decent job and increasing their risk of experiencing health problems, causing a burden on the family economy and the country (Lebni et al., 2023; Parsons et al., 2015).

Innovative approaches are needed to address the problem of early marriage. One approach that can be implemented in agrarian areas, such as Lumajang, is agronursing. Agronursing integrates nursing principles, as well as the role of nurses as educators, with the agricultural environment to improve the welfare of communities in agricultural areas (Maisyaroh, 2019). To prevent health problems, attention must be paid to balancing the needs of farmers and environmental factors (Susanto et al., 2016). In this context, agronursing is closely tied to local wisdom, enabling the creation of more effective and relevant educational programs for the local community. Local wisdom plays a role in strengthening character education through community-based approaches (Lubis, 2021).

One of the methods that has been proven effective in providing education is video-based. The use of audio-visual media can convey important messages, providing ease of understanding and increasing interest in adolescents (Cowdery et al., 2019). According to Bappenas (2022), to prevent child marriage, namely by inviting as many children and young people as possible, one of which is by making videos. On the other hand, the concept of local wisdom refers to the views or values held by specific communities, which become ingrained habits or rules that must be observed (Damayanti et al., 2023). The incorporation of the concept of local wisdom into the production of audio-visual media can enhance knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors in alignment with the values of health education provided (Susanto et al., 2020). Education enables us to think critically, analyze, and make informed decisions (Mujiburrahman et al., 2021).

This study aims to evaluate the effectiveness of video-based educational interventions that integrate local wisdom in enhancing the knowledge and attitudes of adolescent girls toward the prevention of early marriage in agricultural areas. One of the factors that causes early marriage is economic factors (Syalis & Nurwati, 2020). Teman sebaya juga mempunyai pengaruh terhadap pernikahan usia dini (Ardayani, 2020). The media used is in the form of a film titled "RABI (Remaja Anti Bertindak nikah dini)". The main message in the short film is that child marriage should not be used as a solution to overcome family economic problems because many negative impacts will occur if children are married at a very early age, in addition to incorporating local wisdom, such as religious approaches, social norms, and culture, in the Lumajang Regency area.

Previous research on preventing child marriage includes the socialization strategy of early marriage prevention with the Planning Generation Program (Priscilla et al., 2023), other research through literacy activities (storytelling), folk tales with female main characters (Restapaty & Iedliany, 2022), and community skill building (Rosuliana et al., 2020). Previous research on prevention through videos has been conducted, but it has not employed a local wisdom approach. Prevention of early marriage through a local wisdom approach did not utilize videos, but rather involved deliberations with community leaders (Nirmala & Taufik, 2024). The novelty of this study lies in its use of videos in the form of short movies featuring local wisdom, developed through a religious approach by researchers in agricultural areas.

Education for a child is critical because it not only provides knowledge but also teaches the correct values; education fosters a person into an adult individual, in the sense of an individual who can make informed decisions (Amrizal et al., 2021). Behavioral changes are influenced by three factors, one of which is a reinforcing factor consisting of knowledge and attitude (Fatimah et al., 2021). The contribution of this study to science is that its results can serve as a reference for health education and efforts to prevent early marriage, increase adolescent knowledge and positive attitudes, and contribute to efforts to reduce the number of early marriages and improve adolescent health.

METHODS

This research uses a quantitative approach, using essentially a 'one-group pretest-posttest design to analyze changes in students' knowledge and attitudes before and after the intervention (Creswell & Creswell, 2018). This study aimed to evaluate the effectiveness of a short movie intervention based on local wisdom entitled "RABI (Remaja Anti Bertindak Nikah Dini)" in improving the knowledge and attitudes of adolescent girls toward preventing early marriage in the Lumajang area. The research was conducted in schools within the working area of the Rogotruman Health Center, Lumajang Regency. The area is agricultural. Purposive sampling is the technique used to sample, with the inclusion criteria being female students between the ages of 10 and 19 years who attend school in the working area of the Rogotruman Health Center and are willing to participate in all stages of the research. A total of 137 students participated in this study.

The research procedure began with a pre-test to collect initial data using a questionnaire to measure students' knowledge and attitudes related to early marriage. After the pre-test, students were given an intervention in the form of a 21-minute and 50-second short film screening. Local wisdom is integrated into the content of this short film. Local wisdom in the content of this short film, with a religious perspective, namely by involving religious stakeholders, including the Chairman of the Majelis Ulama Indonesia (MUI) of Lumajang

Regency, Islamic, Christian, Catholic, and Hindu religious figures, in the educational content in the short film, as an effort to prevent early marriage. This short film also involves real statistics of teenagers who have early marriages. These figures provide stories and education to prevent early marriages and convey the impacts of early marriage. The short movie titled "RABI" has been prepared in advance and contains educational content. The message contained in the short movie is not to make child marriage a solution in overcoming the economic issues in the family and the impacts that will occur if children are married at a very early age, such as health risks, the occurrence of violent behavior, loss of educational opportunities, and psychological impacts. Following the screening of the short movie and the educational session, a post-test was administered to assess changes in students' knowledge and attitudes using the same questionnaire as the *pre-test*.

The instrument used in this study was a short movie created by the researcher, titled "RABI (Remaja Anti Bertindak Nikah Dini)". This short movie begins with a true story of a child who has an early marriage; this story provides education about the experience and impact of early marriage. Then, this short movie tells about one of the factors that cause early marriage, namely the economy; the impact of early marriage is also shown in the short film; this short film also contains education about efforts to prevent early marriage with a local wisdom approach by involving religious stakeholders including the Chairman of the Majelis Ulama Indonesia (MUI) of Lumajang Regency, Islamic, Christian, Catholic, and Hindu religious leaders.

A measuring tool to evaluate knowledge using a questionnaire. The questionnaire consists of 10 multiple-choice questions with closed answers. The questionnaire has been thoroughly tested for validity and reliability prior to use. Primary data was collected using a questionnaire. The collected data will be analysed using the *Wilcoxon Signed-Rank* test to determine significant differences between pre- and post-intervention scores (Sofiyetti et al., 2023). This test was chosen because the data were not normally distributed ($p < 0.05$). Before conducting the test to determine the effectiveness of the intervention, a Kolmogorov-Smirnov normality test was first performed to ensure that the distribution of differences between the pre-test and post-test scores was normally distributed. The results of the *Kolmogorov-Smirnov* test showed that the distribution of differences was not normally distributed ($p < 0.05$). The data were not normally distributed, so a non-parametric *Wilcoxon Signed-Rank* test was carried out to analyze the difference between pre-test and post-test scores. A limitation of this study is the lack of a control group. This study has received approval from the Health Research Ethics Committee of the Faculty of Nursing at the University of Jember, number 286/UN25. 1. 14/KEPK/2024.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The study involved 137 junior high school students and high school students in the Rogotrunan Health Center area. The results of the respondents' characteristics revealed a diverse distribution in terms of age and educational level. Table 1 describes the characteristics of all respondents. This study categorizes adolescents into three types: early adolescence (10-13 years), middle adolescence (14-16 years), and late adolescence (17-19 years). The age range of respondents in this study is as follows: the most significant number is middle adolescence, with 70 female students (51.1%), followed by early adolescence, with 48 female students (35%), and late adolescence, with 19 female students (13.9%). In terms of educational level, most respondents came from junior high school or MTS equivalent, namely 99 students (72.3%), while the remaining 38 students (27.7%) came from high school or MA equivalent.

Table 1. Characteristics of Respondents (N=137)

Variable	Frequency (N)	Percentage (%)
Age		
Early Adolescence (Ages 10-13)	48	35.0
Middle Adolescence (Ages 14-16)	70	51.1
Late Adolescence (Ages 17-19)	19	13.9
Educational Level		
(SMP/MTs)	99	72.3
(SMA/MA)	38	27.7

The overall age group in this study is considered the most vulnerable to early marriage, according to the definition of early marriage, which includes individuals under 19 years old (UNICEF, 2023). Adolescents are highly vulnerable to early marriage due to limited autonomy in decision-making regarding marriage and gender norms that further weaken their independence, particularly among young girls (Wahyuningsih et al., 2025). In this study, most respondents had junior high school/MTS education. A study showed that lower educational attainment was significantly associated with an increased likelihood of early marriage (Fitria et al., 2024). Another study highlights that rural adolescents often face barriers to developing reproductive health awareness, which leads to a lack of understanding of the consequences of early marriage (Naghizadeh et al., 2021; Wahyuningsih et al., 2024). Therefore, the characteristics of the respondents in this study emphasize the

urgency of providing interventions aimed at adolescents in the specified age and educational range to improve their cognitive capacity as an effort to prevent early marriage.

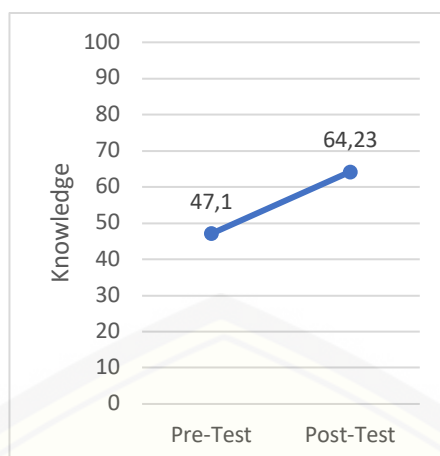


Figure 1. Increase in Average Scores from Pre-test to Post-test

Figure 1 illustrates a significant increase in the average pre-test and post-test scores in students' knowledge and attitudes towards the prevention of early marriage following interventions in the form of short movie screenings based on local wisdom and educational sessions. Before the intervention, the average pre-test score was 47.01, which reflects the level of knowledge and initial attitudes of students regarding early marriage. After the intervention, the average post-test score increased to 64.23, indicating a significant improvement in students' comprehension and attitude.

Table 2. Wilcoxon Signed-Rank Test Results (N=137)

	Mean Rank	Sum of Rank	N
Post-Test < Pre-Test	0.00	0.00	-
Post-Test > Pre-Test	67.50	9045.00	134
Post-Test = Pre-Test	-	-	3
Total	-	-	137

Table 3. Result of the Wilcoxon Signed-Rank Test Statistics

	Post-Test - Pre-Test
Z	-9.430
p-value	0.000

Based on Table 3, the Z value obtained is -9.430 with a p-value of 0.000, indicating that the difference between the pre-test and post-test scores is statistically significant. These results indicate that the intervention carried out is effective in improving students' understanding and attitudes related to the prevention of early marriage. The absence of a decrease in scores, combined with the fact that only a few students achieved the identical scores, reinforces the evidence that an educational approach using short film media based on local wisdom is an effective method for achieving the goals of adolescent health education. These findings support the use of culturally relevant educational media in health education programs to create positive changes in students' knowledge and attitudes.

The utilization of technology in the development of video-based learning in rural areas, including agricultural regions, is highly effective in enhancing comprehension (Darojat et al., 2025). The use of audio-visual media, combined with local wisdom values, provides a convenient means of conveying messages and capturing the interest of adolescent girls (Cowdery et al., 2019; Damayanti et al., 2023). So that the message that wants to be conveyed about child marriage should not be used as a solution to overcome family economic problems, and the negative impact of early marriage can be adequately addressed. The results of this study align with a study on the use of video-based education, which is very effective in increasing adolescent girls' knowledge of nutrition and reproductive health (Febriana et al., 2020). Other research also supports the findings of this study, specifically regarding the role of local wisdom in creating audio-visual media, which can enhance knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors aligned with the education provided to adolescents (Susanto et al., 2020).

The success of this intervention lies in the use of video-based educational media that integrates local wisdom in the Lumajang area, making it easier for adolescents to understand the core message of preventing

early marriage. The incorporation of local wisdom helps adolescents relate to the content through familiar cultural, social, and normative contexts, making it more relatable and accessible. Local wisdom-based education, combined with short movies, increases the effectiveness of delivering messages about early marriage and its impacts. It enhances student involvement and acceptance in achieving health goals and preventing early marriage. This study supports the use of culturally relevant educational media in health education programs to promote positive changes in students' knowledge and attitudes. This study contributes to efforts aimed at reducing early marriage rates and enhancing adolescent health. The limitation of this study is its reliance on a single local wisdom approach, namely the religious approach; several other local wisdoms could also be employed as efforts to prevent child marriage, such as customs and family involvement. Another limitation is the absence of a control group in the study. Research can be conducted in areas or tribes with strong cultures and customs, as well as in broader regions.

CONCLUSION

This study demonstrates that the intervention involves screening short films titled 'RABI,' effectively improving students' knowledge and attitudes towards early marriage prevention in agricultural regions. The use of video makes it easier for respondents to understand the essence of the message, which aims to discourage early marriage. The local wisdom presented in the short film makes teenagers feel relevant to their lives in terms of culture, existing social norms, and prevailing beliefs within their environment. This finding can serve as the basis for implementing video-based education by integrating local wisdom in the region. These findings support the use of culturally relevant educational media in health education programs to promote positive changes in students' knowledge and attitudes. Local wisdom-based educational programs enhance the effectiveness of message delivery, strengthen student engagement, and increase acceptance to achieve health goals. This study also contributes to efforts aimed at reducing early marriage rates, improving adolescent health, and supporting health and nursing education.

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