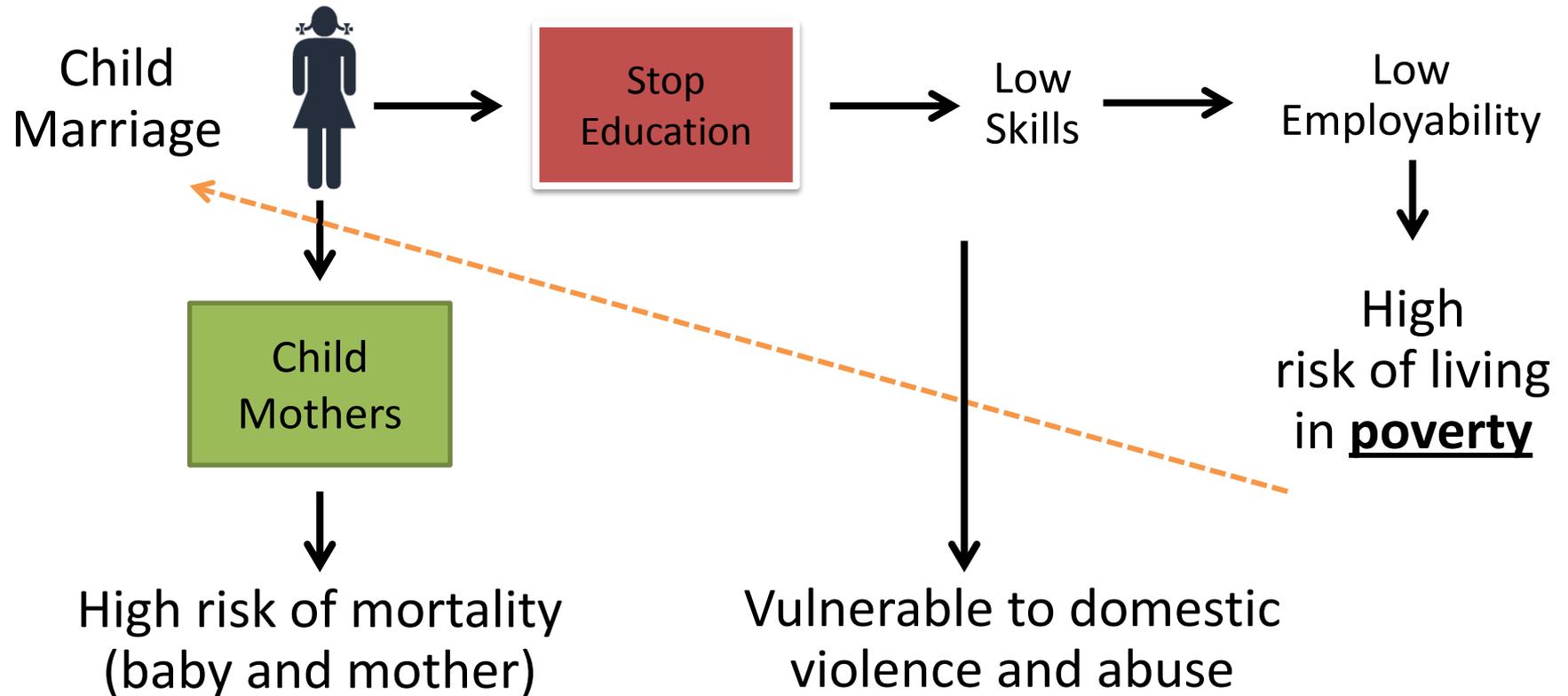




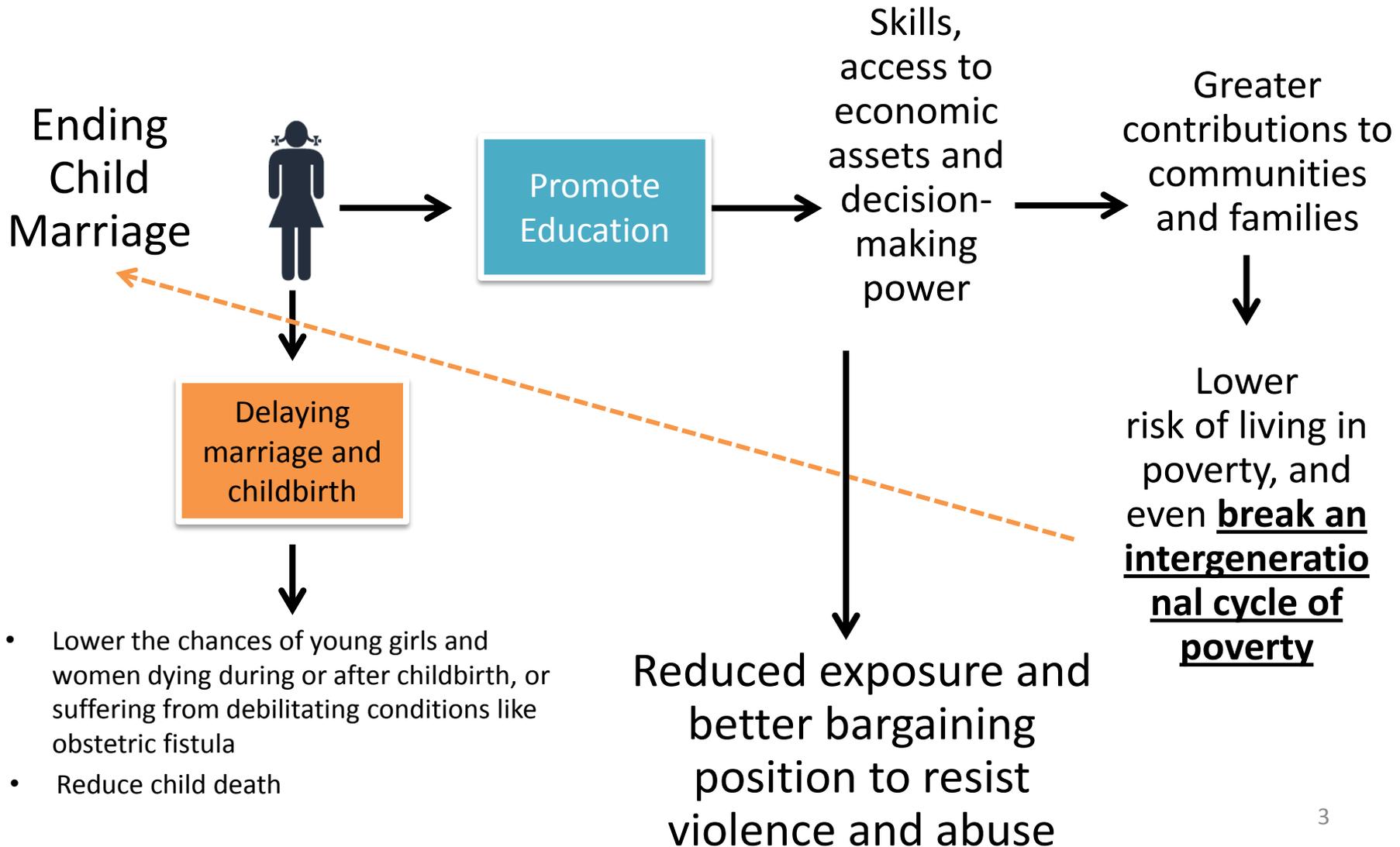
Ending Child Marriage

The Art (Challenge!) of Asking Difficult Questions

Child marriage



Ending Child marriage



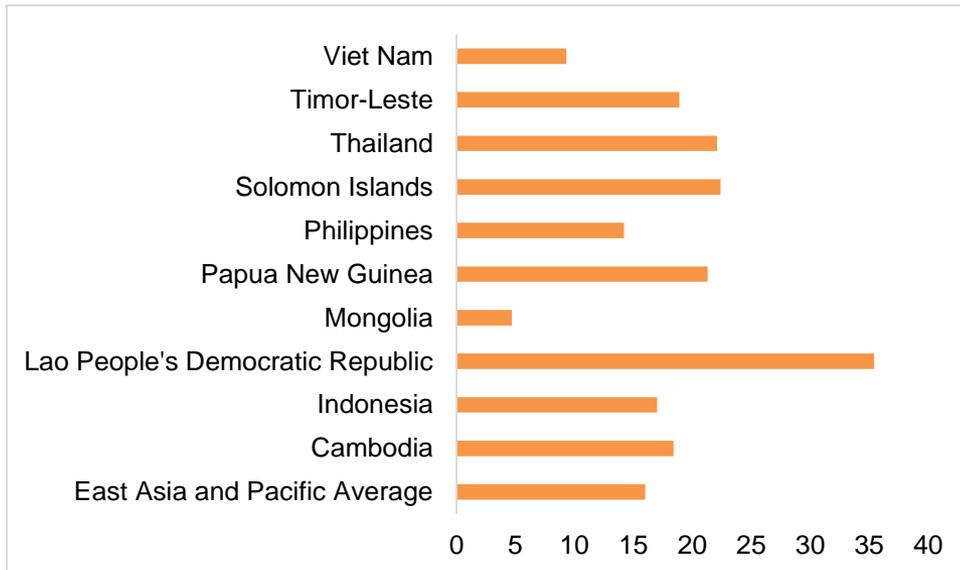
Global Data

Globally almost 400 million women aged 20–49 were married or entered into union while they were children.

While child marriage is found in practically every region of the world, higher rates are found in Latin America and the Caribbean, South Asia, and sub-Saharan Africa. Child marriage affects both boys and girls, but it impacts girls in far larger numbers and with more intensity.

http://www.unicef.org/media/files/Child_Marriage_Report_7_17_LR..pdf

Prevalence of child marriage among women 20-24 years old first married or in union before age 18 from selected countries in the East Asia and Pacific 2005-2013 from various studies and surveys



‘Child Marriage’ or ‘Early Marriage’?

Child marriage is defined as marriage before the age of 18.

The preferred UNICEF style is to refer to ‘child’ instead of ‘early’ marriage, since the word ‘early’ does not immediately convey the fact that this practice affects children below a specified age, and therefore does not help to capture the key message that marriage before 18 is a violation of children’s rights.

Child marriage is a global development priority

SDG Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

- **Target 5.3** Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation
- ***Indicator:** Percentage of women aged 20-24 who were first married or in union by age 18*

Regional commitments by governments

- **African Union:** Continent-wide child marriage campaign
- **Ethiopia** to eliminate child marriage by 2025

Development partners have committed funds

- UK/ Netherlands/ Canada: 80m USD over 4 years (12 countries)
- UNICEF has named child marriage as a priority in the Strategic Plan

Discussing the Difficult Issues

“Getting communities to discuss and talk about what do they, in their view, think is the ideal age of marriage, why is that an ideal age, explaining to them and sharing with them evidence and information about the consequences for their daughters and for the children that they will bear, talking to them about what are the options to marriage, trying to engage them in a conversation about the fact that marriage is often not always safe, as they imagine, that it doesn't necessarily protect the honor of their daughters.” –

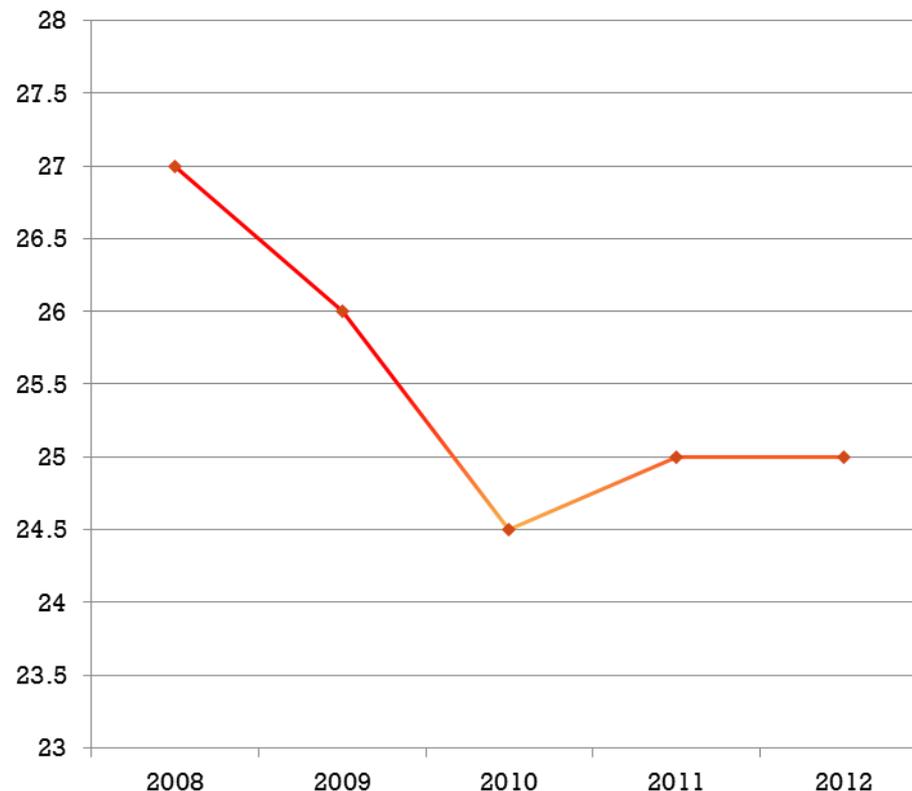
Geeta Rao Gupta

Q: What if a girl says she wants to be married?

A: It is important to listen to children's choices and preferences. However, a girl voicing support for her marriage may be doing so as a result of the dominant nature of the practice in her community or social group or because of her lack of power to oppose the actions of her parents and community. Thus, even if the child consents to it, child marriage is an outcome of prevailing social norms whereby children are expected to marry as children. It can therefore be considered forced marriage

Portrait of Child Marriage in Indonesia

Amongst ever married women aged between 20-24 years, 25 per cent marry before 18 years. Using a more common global indicator, 17% of all women aged 20-24 years were first married by 18. This represents a steady decline of approximately 5 per cent since 2007. However, child marriage progress in Indonesia has plateaued and rates remain persistently high.



Portrait of Child Marriage in Indonesia

Child marriage ends girls' education but secondary school education prevents child marriage. Among adolescent girls ages 15-19, it is eleven times more common for unmarried girls to be in school compared to married girls (68,5 % and 6,1 % respectively). Just as marriage ends school for a girl, education serves to postpone marriage. Analysis of women who have ever been married in SUSENAS data from 2008-2012 confirms that lower levels of education are strongly associated with higher rates of child marriage. 47.5 per cent of girls who never attended or never completed primary school were married before age 18

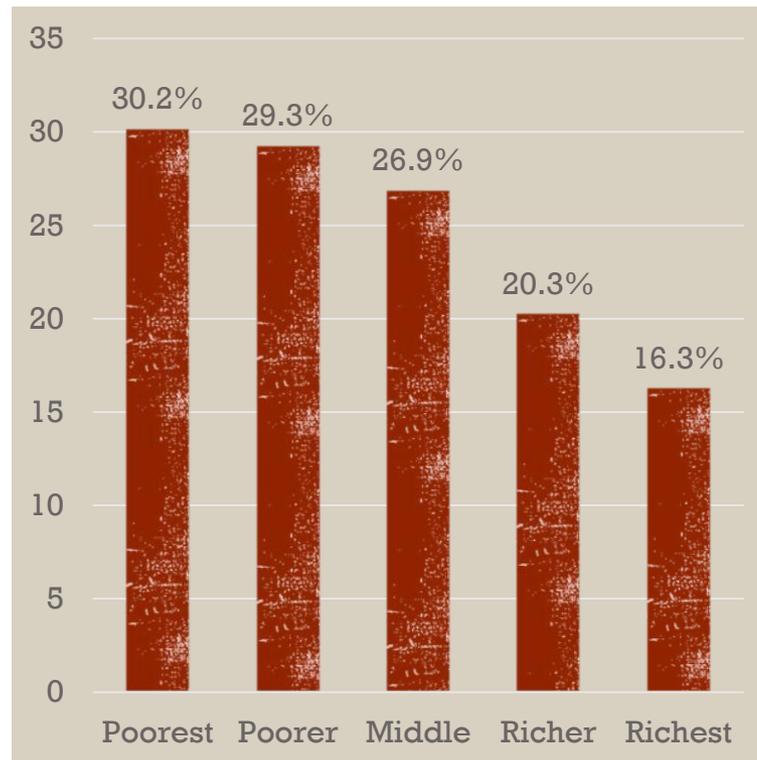
Percentage of ever-married females ages 20 - 24 married before age 18

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Total	27.4	25.8	24.5	25.2	25.2
No primary school attended or completed	53.0	46.3	46.3	44.9	47.5
Primary school completed	40.7	40.1	39.7	39.2	40.8
Junior secondary school completed	26.6	25.5	24.9	26.4	26.6
Senior secondary school completed	4.4	5.1	4.9	5.1	5.1
Higher education completed	1.3	3.3	0.7	1.4	1.8

Source: Secondary analysis of SUSENAS, 2008-2012

Portrait of Child Marriage in Indonesia

While poverty makes girls much more vulnerable to child marriage, social and cultural acceptance permeates all economic levels. While child marriage rates do decline as household wealth increases, the practice is still highly prevalent among the richer and richest households: 16 per cent of girls in the richest households are married before age 18. This indicates that social and cultural norms around the acceptability of child marriage permeate all economic levels in Indonesia and that financial security only provides limited protection.



Portrait of Child Marriage in Indonesia

Extremely high rates of child and adolescent marriage are found in geographical pockets throughout Indonesia. While according to the census, the national female adolescent marriage rate is 13 per cent, at the provincial level rates range from 6.1 to 22.7 per cent. Rates are highest in Central Kalimantan, South Kalimantan, and Bangka Belitung. 70 priority districts were identified as having alarmingly high female adolescent marriage rates of 20 per cent or higher, compared to a 13 per cent at the national level.

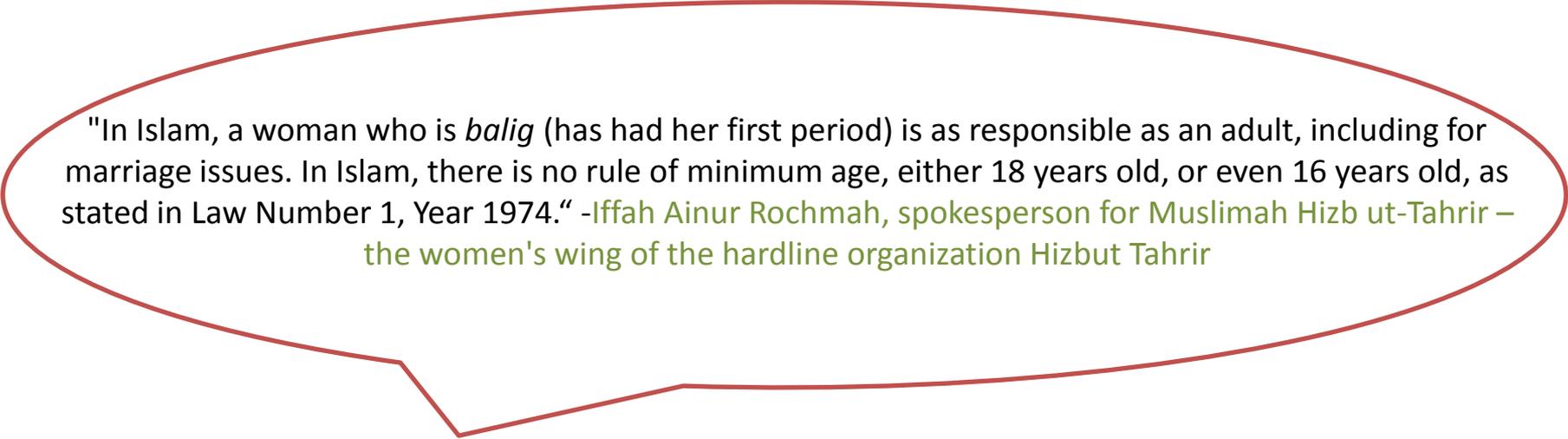
Provinsi	Prevalensi/ Persentase Perkawinan Anak Perempuan (%)	Perkiraan Jumlah Anak Perempuan yang Terdampak
Kalimantan Tengah	22.7%	21,878
Kalimantan Selatan	22.1%	35,522
Bangka Belitung	18.9%	9,322
Sulawesi Tengah	16.9%	18,884
Jambi	16.8%	22,479
Gorontalo	16.0%	8,203
Kalimantan Barat	15.9%	31,624
Kalimantan Timur	15.3%	21,674
Nusa Tenggara Barat	15.3%	32,886
Sulawesi Tenggara	15.1%	16,007
Sulawesi Barat	15.1%	8,064
Sumatera Selatan	14.4%	48,210
Jawa Timur	14.9%	222,158
Jawa Barat	13.47%	253,868

Portrait of Child Marriage in Indonesia

The 1974 Marriage Law stipulates that the minimum age for a woman to marry is 16 years old. However, the 2002 Child Protection Law states anyone below the age of 18 is considered a minor.

A 2012 survey by the Empowerment of Female Heads of Households Program (Pekka) shows that nearly 25 percent of marriages in 111 villages in 17 provinces in 2012 were unregistered.

Opposing views based on religious interpretations or customary practices



"In Islam, a woman who is *balig* (has had her first period) is as responsible as an adult, including for marriage issues. In Islam, there is no rule of minimum age, either 18 years old, or even 16 years old, as stated in Law Number 1, Year 1974." -Iffah Ainur Rochmah, spokesperson for Muslimah Hizb ut-Tahrir – the women's wing of the hardline organization Hizbut Tahrir

Some Knowledge Gap (part of non-exhaustive list!)

- Current Practices in Marriage Dispensation and Case Management
- Alternative to Unplanned Marriage: Good Practices in Addressing the Issues of Unwanted Pregnancies
- What Comes After? The Link with Divorce Rate and Domestic Violence
- Alternative to Brideprice; The Role of Broad-Based Child Grant to Reduce Vulnerabilities to Child Marriage
- Harmful Practices and Traditions that Increase the Vulnerabilities to Child Marriage
- Who Are the Gatekeepers? The Role of Parents, Guardians, Religious and Community Leaders in Ending or Perpetuating Cycles of Child Marriage

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