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## IMPLEMENTATION OF PRE-MARRIAGE GUIDANCE FOR PROSPECTIVE BRIDES IN CREATING A SAKINAH, MAWADAH, WARAHMAH FAMILY AT THE KARANGTENGAH DISTRICT, CIANJUR

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### ABSTRACT

This research is motivated by the low level of participation of prospective brides and grooms in participating in pre-marital guidance at the KUA of Karangtengah District. Obstacles that arise include limited time, facilities, and human resources. This study aims to: (1) describe the implementation of pre-marital guidance, (2) identify supporting and inhibiting factors, and (3) determine the perceptions of prospective brides and grooms towards the program. The research method used is qualitative with a descriptive approach. Data were obtained through observation, interviews, and documentation, then analyzed descriptively qualitatively. The results of the study indicate that pre-marital guidance at KUA Karangtengah includes aspects of the mentor, participants, materials, and methods. Supporting factors include infrastructure, facilitator competence, and participant enthusiasm. Inhibiting factors include limited time and busy participants. In general, prospective brides and grooms have a positive perception of pre-marital guidance as an important provision in building a household towards a sakinah, mawaddah, warahmah family.

*Keywords: Pre-marital guidance, KUA Karangtengah, peaceful, loving and compassionate family*

### INTRODUCTION

Islam is a teaching given through the Prophet Muhammad for the good of humanity. In Islamic teachings, people are expected to achieve happiness both in this world and in the afterlife, and one way to achieve this is through marriage. Marriage is a crucial aspect of human life. Through marriage, a household can be established and maintained in accordance with religious norms within the context of social life.<sup>1</sup>In Islam, the purpose of marriage is not only to fulfill the physical and spiritual needs of humans, but also to form a harmonious family, full of love and compassion, and to protect and continue offspring in living life in this world, while preventing adultery, thus creating peace and tranquility of soul for each individual, family, and society.

Prospective brides and grooms must overcome many challenges and prepare for married life. Therefore, it is crucial to provide training and counseling to prospective brides and grooms to equip them with the knowledge and skills necessary for married life. With these skills, it is hoped that the bride and groom will

be able to create a harmonious, loving, and compassionate family (SAMAWA).

However, social reality shows that not all marriages go as planned. The high divorce rate in various regions, including the Karangtengah District Office of Religious Affairs (KUA), indicates that many couples are still unprepared mentally, spiritually, and in terms of life skills to build a household. Various problems arise, such as a limited understanding of the roles and responsibilities of husband and wife, weak conflict management, and inadequate family financial management.

As an effort, the government through the Ministry of Religious Affairs has instructed the implementation of Marriage Guidance (Bimwin) for prospective brides and grooms, which is strengthened by Circular Letter of the Director General of Islamic Community Guidance No. 2 of 2024. This program is implemented by the Office of Religious Affairs (KUA) throughout Indonesia, including the Office of Religious Affairs (KUA) of Karangtengah District, with the aim of equipping prospective brides and grooms regarding household rights and obligations, effective communication, emotional management, financial management, and instilling religious values.

Creating a harmonious family based on Islamic values isn't something that happens overnight. Thorough preparation, both spiritually and mentally, is necessary to equip couples with the dynamics of a household. In this context, premarital counseling is a strategic step in equipping prospective couples before they enter marriage.

As an official government institution, the Karangtengah Cianjur Office of Religious Affairs (KUA) not only handles marriage registration but also has the responsibility to educate the community through premarital counseling programs. This program aims to provide an understanding of the rights and obligations of husbands and wives, family financial management, effective communication, conflict resolution, and the instilling of religious values as the foundation of a household.

In its implementation, premarital guidance at the Karangtengah District Religious Affairs Office (KUA) faces various challenges. On the one hand, there are supporting factors such as government policy support, appropriate learning materials, and the involvement of religious counselors. On the other hand, there are obstacles, such as limited staff, infrastructure, and a variety of delivery methods that are not fully effective in reaching all participants.

Based on these conditions, this research is focused on examining three main things, namely: (1) how is the process of implementing pre-marital guidance for prospective brides and grooms at the Religious Affairs Office (KUA) in Karangtengah District, (2) what are the...a supporting and inhibiting factors for the implementation of premarital guidance at the Religious Affairs Office (KUA) in Karangtengah District, and (3) the perceptions of prospective brides and grooms regarding the implementation of premarital guidance.

From the presentation, then the author is interested in conducting research in a written work entitled "Implementation of Pre-Marital Guidance for Prospective Brides and Grooms in Realizing a Sakinah Mawadah Warahmah Family at the KUA, Karangtengah District, Cianjur."

## METHODS

This research uses a qualitative research method. The qualitative method is a research approach used to examine and understand a phenomenon in depth through collecting narrative or descriptive data, such as verbal expressions, written notes, or observable behavior.

The approach used is a descriptive approach. A descriptive approach can be explained as a way to solve the problem being researched by describing or representing the current condition of the research subject or object based on visible evidence.

Data collection techniques included observation, interviews, and documentation. Observation plays a crucial role in conveying to researchers information about individual actions. Interviews were conducted with the Head of the Karangtengah District Office of Religious Affairs (KUA), counselors, village headmen, and participants. Documentation collected included photographs, administrative records, and internal archives of the institution, providing a realistic picture of the empirical conditions in the field.

In analyzing the data, the author used a qualitative descriptive analysis approach, in which the author attempted to present the data objectively by interpreting the information, so that the problem could be systematically described. Next, factors relevant to the analyzed phenomenon were examined.

## RESULTS

### 1. Implementation of Pre-Wedding Guidance for prospective brides and grooms

The Karangtengah District Religious Affairs Office (KUA) is administratively located in Cianjur Regency and provides services to the community in matters of marriage, reconciliation, recording of divorce and divorce, zakat, waqf, as well as pre-marital and other religious guidance.

Premarital counseling at the Karangtengah District Office of Religious Affairs (KUA) is carried out as an effort to prepare prospective couples to build a harmonious, loving, and compassionate household. There are several stages in premarital counseling, including:

#### a. Registration

Every pApplicants must bring the following documents: a marriage introduction letter from the village or sub-district office where the prospective bride and groom live, a marriage recommendation letter from the local KUA (Religious Affairs Office) for prospective brides and grooms who are getting married outside their respective sub-districts, and photocopies of their ID cards, family cards, birth certificates, and four 2x3-sized blue-background photographs, along with their softcopies. Then, verify the data.

#### b. Material

Based on field observations, the author found that the pre-marital briefing program for couples about to marry at the Karangtengah District Religious Affairs Office (KUA) included the delivery of materials to the prospective bride and groom. The materials presented by the mentors to the prospective participants

were:bridenamely building a Sakinah mawadah warahmah family, Rights and obligations of husband and wife, Family economic management, Reproductive health and family planning.

Pre-marital guidance for prospective bride and groom couples includes providing information about reproductive health, happy families, and marriage law. This activity is held once a week, on Wednesdays from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. WIB.

#### c. Method

A method is a way of acting according to a specific system of rules so that the practitioner's activities are carried out rationally and in a focused manner, achieving optimal results. Premarital guidance material is delivered through lectures and question-and-answer sessions.

#### d. Objective

The guidance counselor for prospective brides and grooms hopes that every couple preparing for marriage will be able to build a healthy and responsible household. All the knowledge and values imparted during the guidance process are expected to be applied in family life, thus providing the foundation for a harmonious household.

The premarital guidance program for prospective brides and grooms at the Karangtengah District Office of Religious Affairs (KUA) involves several counselors: the Head of the KUA, the Religious Affairs Clerk (Penghulu), and the Counselor. These counselors serve as resource persons, providing material according to their respective competencies. The resource persons are appointed based on their expertise and capacity in their respective fields, ensuring that the material presented is professionally accountable.

The presence of professional counselors helps create a conducive guidance environment. They not only teach theory but also guide prospective brides and grooms to achieve emotional, spiritual, and social readiness. Therefore, counselors in premarital counseling can be considered a key pillar in achieving the program's goal of creating a harmonious, loving, and compassionate family..<sup>3</sup>

## 2. Supporting and Inhibiting Factors

The premarital counseling sessions are guided by the bride and groom-to-be, who are the primary participants in the program. They attend to gain knowledge, attitudes, and basic skills for building a harmonious, loving, and compassionate household. Their presence is not just about as an administrative requirement for registering a marriage, but more importantly it is a real need to prepare oneself to face the dynamics of married life..<sup>4</sup>A program is inseparable from supporting and inhibiting factors. This is also true for the premarital guidance program at the Karangtengah District Office of Religious Affairs (KUA), namely:

#### a. Supporting Factors

##### 1) Facilities and infrastructure

Facilities and infrastructureThe adequate facilities at the Karangtengah District Religious Affairs Office (KUA) are sufficient to support the pre-marital guidance process, because there is a special guidance room consisting of: sound system equipment, infocus, laptop and suitable accommodation.

##### 2) Quite competent facilitator

The mentor who is competent in his field is a guide who has broad insight, especially regarding material related to the implementation of pre-marital guidance. For the material on laws and regulations for marriage and harmonious families, the resource person can be a marriage registrar or a counselor from the Office of Religious Affairs (KUA), but for reproductive health material, the resource person comes from the community health center.

### 3) Enthusiasm of Participants

Participants in the premarital guidance program demonstrated considerable enthusiasm throughout the program. This was evident in their attendance, active involvement in the question-and-answer session, and full attention when the facilitator or resource person presented the material.

#### b. Inhibiting Factors

##### 1) Participants who work

The participants were busy, because some of them were working so they could not fully focus on following the guidance.

##### 2) Time constraints

Time constraints also posed a challenge, as a significant amount of material had to be presented in a relatively short time. Consequently, not all topics could be covered in depth.

### 3. Bride and Groom's Perception of Pre-Marital Guidance

Prospective brides and grooms generally have a positive perception of the premarital counseling program. They consider this activity very beneficial as preparation before entering married life. The material presented includes understanding the rights and obligations of husband and wife, communication within the family, conflict management, and knowledge about reproductive health. Furthermore, premarital counseling is also perceived as a forum for broadening religious insight, particularly regarding the purpose of marriage in Islam, namely to create a harmonious, loving, and compassionate family. Although some participants feel embarrassed to ask further questions, they still believe the program provides motivation and mental and spiritual preparation before starting a family.

## CONCLUSION

Based on the research results, it can be concluded that:

### 1. Implementation of Pre-Marital Guidance

The premarital counseling program at the Karangtengah District Office of Religious Affairs (KUA) encompasses several key aspects: the counselor, the participants, the materials, and the delivery method. This program, also known as the prospective bride and groom course, is held every Wednesday from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. WIB.

The material provided includes knowledge about Marriage Law, Munakahat jurisprudence, and reproductive health. In delivery In presenting the material, the speakers used a lecture method combined with a question and answer session, so that participants not only listened, but could also interact directly with the supervisor.

The resource persons for this activity included various parties, such as marriage registrars, religious instructors, heads of the Religious Affairs Office (KUA), and health workers from community health centers. The participants, or mentors, were prospective couples who had registered to marry at the KUA in Karangtengah District.

## 2. Supporting and Inhibiting Factors

The implementation of premarital counseling at the Karangtengah District Office of Religious Affairs (KUA) generally went quite well, supported by competent resource persons, relevant materials, regulatory support, and the participation of prospective brides and grooms. However, several challenges remained, such as time constraints and the number of participants working. Nevertheless, these supporting factors ensured the successful implementation of premarital counseling, achieving the goal of equipping prospective brides and grooms for building a household.

## 3. Perceptions of prospective brides and grooms in pre-marital guidance

The implementation of premarital guidance at the Karangtengah District Office of Religious Affairs (KUA) is very beneficial for prospective couples because it provides additional insight and important provisions regarding married life. The hopes of both prospective couples and the KUA Karangtengah District are aligned: that the premarital guidance program can continue to be implemented on an ongoing basis and be attended by all couples planning to marry. The counselors and resource persons also hope that this activity will reduce the divorce rate and create couples who are ready to live a happy married life filled with mutual respect and acceptance.

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