



Implementation of Marriage Policy and Catin's Attitudes Regarding Marriage Counseling on the Performance of Suscatin Mentors in Realizing Family Marriage Adjustments

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ABSTRACT

This research aims to investigate the impact of marriage policies and the attitudes of prospective brides and grooms towards marriage counseling on the performance of pre-marital counselors in achieving marital adjustments within Garut Regency. Employing an exploratory analysis method, the study focused on the leaders of the Marriage Advice, Development, and Preservation Agency in Garut Regency, including the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons, totaling 86 individuals, utilizing a census sampling technique. Data collection encompassed questionnaires, interviews, observations, and documentary research. Statistical path analysis was the chosen technique to address the research hypotheses. The primary hypothesis testing revealed that the implementation of marriage policies and the attitudes of prospective brides and grooms influenced pre-marital counselor performance in achieving adjustments by 12.79%, with the remaining 87.21% attributed to other factors. Further sub-hypothesis testing demonstrated that marriage policies and prospective brides' and grooms' attitudes toward marriage counseling accounted for 25.43%, while other factors constituted 74.57%. Intriguingly, the implementation of marriage policies and attitudes toward marriage counseling did not significantly impact marital adjustments (path coefficient of 0.0364). Pre-marital counselor performance also had limited effects on marital adjustments (path coefficient of 0.1526). Moreover, there was a positive correlation between the implementation of marriage policies and the attitudes of prospective brides and grooms toward marriage counseling (partial correlation coefficient of 0.6783). The research identified key issues, such as suboptimal policy implementation, lack of awareness and motivation among prospective brides and grooms, ineffective interagency collaboration, and a shortage of skilled staff among pre-marital counselors. In light of these findings, it is recommended to improve policy implementation, enhance interagency cooperation, and increase awareness among prospective brides and grooms regarding the significance of pre-marital counseling for successful marriages. These measures are essential for addressing the prevalent marital issues and lack of warmth and affection in young couples' family lives in Garut Regency.

Keywords: Policy, Attitude, Performance

INTRODUCTION

The implementation of a government policy, especially in the context of marriage, is determined by the principles or foundations of marriage and everything related to marriage that has been adapted to the changing needs of the times. Article 10 of Law No. 1 of 1974 explains that the purpose of marriage is to form a happy and enduring family. Therefore, prospective spouses need

to support and complement each other, allowing each individual to develop their personalities and achieve physical and emotional well-being.

Providing marriage counseling to individuals and/or couples who are about to or have already married is essential. As Syafi'i (2006:17) suggests, marriage involves uniting the unique differences in personality, character, preferences, and knowledge of two individuals (prospective spouses) in a long-term partnership. Some couples quickly adapt, while others take more time, some experience occasional conflicts, and others constantly quarrel but cannot separate. They may unite only in the bedroom, resulting in many children, but outside of that, they continue to argue.

The success of a marriage is not solely determined by the duration of the relationship or the intensity of emotions experienced by the couple. It is not about who dominates the relationship. Success in marriage differs from success in a career, which can be measured by one's career achievements.

However, this does not mean that the success of a marriage cannot be evaluated. Success in a marriage can be assessed by how satisfied the couple is with their relationship most of the time. Do both partners feel that their physical, emotional, and psychological needs are met in their marriage?

In line with this, Hanum (2008) in her research on the correlation between the age of marriage and marital satisfaction (published in the *Journal of Family by LMK Jakarta*, Vol. XVII No. 1) defines several criteria for marital satisfaction, including:

1. The resilience of both partners to permanent commitments.
2. The absence of differences between the partners that lead to ongoing conflicts and anxiety.
3. The cohesion and unity between both partners.
4. Opportunities for personal growth and development within the marital union.
5. Agreement on important issues in the marriage.
6. Happiness in the marital bond.
7. The extent to which the marriage meets societal needs and demands.

Ibanez (2008) in his research on the relationship between the age of marriage and household happiness (published in the *Family Journal by the Family Media Institute (LMK) Jakarta*, Vol. XVII No. 2) states that marital relationships are determined by the influence and interaction between two people, making it difficult to assess whether a marriage can be considered genuinely successful or not. Success in marriage is not just about how long the relationship lasts and the intensity of emotions experienced by the couple. It is also not determined by which partner dominates the other. Success in marriage differs from the definition of career success, which can be measured by career achievements.

The importance of guidance and pre-marital counseling lies in providing a comprehensive understanding of the issues and dynamics of married life, especially for newlyweds, to ensure the continuity of their marriage. Data from the Department of Guidance (2006) indicates that the composition of the population over the age of 10, both in cities and rural areas, shows changes in marital status. In 2005, 54.2% of women over 10 years old were married, 33.4% were unmarried, 3.1% were divorced and 9.3% were widowed. For men, 53.4% were married, 43.9% were unmarried, 1.0% were divorced, and 1.6% were widowed. These percentages compared to 2004 show changes in marital status, with an increase in divorces and a decrease in marriages.

The successful performance of pre-marital counseling instructors is closely related to support from families and the attitudes of prospective spouses towards marriage counseling and the adaptability of marital adjustment. However, what is the reality for achieving marital adjustment in Garut Regency? Initial observations indicate that the pre-marital counseling for prospective newlyweds conducted by the Marriage Advice, Development, and Preservation Agency (BP4) under the Ministry of Religious Affairs in Garut Regency is not optimally implemented. This can be seen through several issues:

1. Insufficient provision of marriage advice and counseling, as evidenced by the high rate of divorce and separation. Based on data from the Ministry of Religious Affairs in Garut

Regency, the numbers for marriages, divorce, and separation in 2009 were as follows: 31,082 marriages, 348 divorces, and 1,053 separations.

2. The community underutilizes the existence of the Marriage Advice, Development, and Preservation Agency (BP4), which is integrated with the Office of Religious Affairs in each district as a marriage counseling institution.
3. Weak guidance for prospective newlyweds regarding marriage counseling, and prospective spouses do not take advantage of the 10-day waiting period before marriage.
4. Marital adjustment in Garut Regency is not well-implemented.

Based on the above background, the problem statement in this research can be formulated as follows: Marital adjustment in families in Garut Regency has not been achieved. This is suspected to be due, among other reasons, to the ineffective implementation of marriage policies and the lack of attention from prospective spouses to marriage counseling.

In connection with the problem statement, the main research question is: Does the implementation of marriage policies and the attitudes of prospective spouses towards marriage counseling have an influence on the performance of pre-marital counseling instructors in achieving marital adjustment in families?

Given the high divorce rates in society, the lack of utilization of the Marriage Advice, Development, and Preservation Agency integrated with the Office of Religious Affairs, and the underutilization of the 10-day waiting period before marriage, the quality of marital adjustment remains unachieved. This is a significant issue and a matter of concern for the Ministry of Religious Affairs, particularly the Office of Religious Affairs and Guidance. Furthermore, the application of marriage policies to the performance of pre-marital counseling instructors is a form of public service provided by the government to the community. Marriage issues in the country are governed by specific laws, such as Law No. 1 of 1974 on marriage, which defines marriage as a spiritual and physical bond between a man and a woman as prospective spouses with the purpose of forming a happy and lasting family based on belief in the One and Only God.

From these discussions, the fundamental assumption of the research is as follows:

1. Families play a significant role in fulfilling both spiritual and material needs in a balanced manner.
2. Families contribute to the formation of the character of family members and shape the cultural aspects of family life.
3. Marital adjustment plays a crucial role in establishing family life.

The main hypothesis is: There is an influence of the implementation of marriage policies and the attitudes of prospective spouses towards marriage counseling on the performance of pre-marital counseling instructors in achieving marital adjustment in families.

METHODS

In accordance with the authority of a government organization, the Marriage Counseling and Preservation Agency (BP4) integrated with the District Office of Religious Affairs (KUA) has legal status and authority in the field of planning and control, especially concerning its main task of providing services in marriage counseling and family guidance.

In cross-sectoral programs, particularly in the operationalization of the policy for fostering the Sakinah family movement, the Head of the District Office of Religious Affairs (KUA) is positioned as the task force leader. The integration of these programs is aligned with the concept of a 'Sakinah family,' which means 'a family formed through a lawful marriage, capable of fulfilling spiritual and material needs appropriately and in balance, fostering an atmosphere of love within the family and its surroundings, harmoniously practicing and deepening the values of faith, piety, and noble character.'

The duties and functions of the Marriage Counseling, Guidance, and Preservation Agency, in accordance with its articles of association and bylaws, are to improve the quality of marriages and ensure the happiness and longevity of families (households).

According to the articles of association and bylaws, the organizational structure of the Marriage Counseling, Guidance, and Preservation Agency in Garut Regency includes:

1. Chairman
2. Vice Chairman
3. Secretary
4. Vice Secretary
5. Treasurer
6. Vice Treasurer
7. Divisions a) Marriage counseling and family consultation division b) Education and information division

The first characteristic of respondents, based on age, shows that most respondents are between the ages of 41-45. This indicates that the respondents are in a productive age with a substantial duration of marriage.

The second characteristic of respondents based on occupational positions is highly dependent on the district level in implementing family marriage adjustments. Chairpersons and vice-chairpersons at the district level are more dominant, with 42 chairpersons (48.83%) and 42 vice-chairpersons (48.83%).

The third characteristic of respondents based on education level indicates that the majority have completed a bachelor's degree (S-1), with 81 respondents (94.19%). Only one respondent has a postgraduate degree (S-2), accounting for 1.16%. The rest have diploma and high school education backgrounds, with one respondent each, accounting for 1.16% and 3.49% of the total research respondents, respectively.

The average response of the respondents regarding marriage policy implementation is good, with 81.10% of all questions in this variable answered positively. The indicator with the highest percentage is the socialization of Marriage Policy KMA No. 3 of 1999, with 92.33%.

The lowest percentage is related to monitoring activities carried out continuously and progressively from the central level down to the village level, with a percentage of 74.65%. In addition to the highest and lowest values, some other significant findings have been identified in the research, based on respondents' responses combined with observation and interviews. These findings reveal issues in marriage policies in Garut Regency:

1. There is still a perception that some officers of the Marriage Counseling and Preservation Agency (BP4) lack technical coordination skills.
2. The budget support for implementing the Sakinah family movement program and pre-marital courses is considered insufficient.

The average response of respondents regarding the attitude of prospective brides and grooms toward marriage counseling is good, with 82.14% of all questions in this variable answered positively. The indicator with the highest percentage is "marriage counseling is very important for your and your partner's life," at 86.51%.

The lowest percentage is related to registering for counseling with the Marriage Counseling Agency involving all parties, at 75.58%. Other significant findings in the variable of prospective brides and grooms' attitudes toward marriage counseling include:

1. Lack of detailed knowledge about each policy to be implemented.
2. Lack of self-orientation and motivation towards marriage.

The average response of respondents regarding the performance of pre-marital course instructors is good, with 73.33% of all questions in this variable answered positively. The indicator with the highest percentage is "the goal of pre-marital guidance is to instill faith, piety, and noble character values," at 90.47%.

The lowest percentage is related to the exchange of information at the district level, conducted by Asda II, Head of Social Affairs Division, Biro Binsos, BKKBN, with the Kasi Urais of the Ministry of Religious Affairs in the district, at 59.53%. Besides the highest and lowest values, other significant findings in the research include:

1. Well-structured plans that have not been integrated into operational activities.
2. Coordination activities are not systematically scheduled by each Marriage Counseling, Guidance, and Preservation Agency at the district level, posing obstacles in the coordination process.

The average response of respondents regarding family marriage adjustments is good, with 75.07% of all questions in this variable answered positively. The indicator with the highest percentage is "making agreements with your partner regarding the implementation of religious teachings in family life," at 86.28%.

The lowest percentage is related to couples making agreements about the values to be instilled in their family, at 67.21%. Other significant findings in the variable of family marriage adjustments include:

1. The lack of a warm and democratic family atmosphere.
2. A lack of specific moments for expressing affection towards one's partner.

The main hypothesis proposed in this research is that there is an influence of marriage policy implementation and the attitude of prospective brides and grooms toward marriage counseling on the performance of pre-marital course instructors in achieving family marriage adjustments. The sub-hypotheses are as follows:

1. There is an influence of marriage policy implementation on the performance of pre-marital course instructors.
2. There is an influence of the attitude of prospective brides and grooms toward marriage counseling on the performance of pre-marital course instructors.
3. There is an influence of marriage policy implementation on family marriage adjustments.
4. There is an influence of the attitude of prospective brides and grooms toward marriage counseling on family marriage adjustments.
5. There is an influence of the performance of pre-marital course instructors on family marriage adjustments.
6. There is a correlation between Marriage Policy Implementation and the Attitude of Prospective Brides and Grooms toward Marriage Counseling.

To answer these hypotheses, a path analysis is performed.

The main hypothesis proposed is that "There is an influence of marriage policy implementation and the attitude of prospective brides and grooms toward marriage counseling (X) on the performance of pre-marital course instructors (Y) in achieving family marriage adjustments (Z)." To answer this hypothesis, path analysis is used.

To further understand the influence of variables X1 and X2 on Y and Z, a comparison is made between the calculated t-value and the t-table value. Based on the results, the calculated t-value is greater than the t-table value ($t_{0.975; 84}$), with $t\text{-value} = 3.5093 > t\text{-table} = 1.9886$. Therefore, the null hypothesis (H_0) is rejected, indicating that the variables of marriage policy implementation and the attitude of prospective brides and grooms toward marriage counseling (X) have a significant and positive influence on the performance of pre-marital course instructors (Y) and family marriage adjustments (Z).

The coefficient of determination (R^2_{YZX}) is 0.1279, showing that the marriage policy implementation and the attitude of prospective brides and grooms toward marriage counseling (X) influence the performance of pre-marital course instructors (Y) and family marriage adjustments (Z) by 12.79%. The remaining 87.21% is influenced by other variables not included in the model, such as service accountability and collaboration in providing marriage counseling.

Simultaneously, the variables of marriage policy implementation (X1) and the attitude of prospective brides and grooms toward marriage counseling (X2) have a significant influence on the performance of pre-marital course instructors (Y). The F-value is greater than the F-table value ($F_{0.05; 2; 83}$), with $F\text{-value} = 14.1534$ and $F\text{-table} = 3.11$, indicating that both variables have a significant impact on the performance of pre-marital course instructors (Y).

The significance of the test results is supported by the coefficient of determination ($R^2_{YX1,X2}$) of 0.2543, showing that the performance of pre-marital course instructors (Y) is influenced by marriage policy implementation (X1) and the attitude of prospective brides and grooms toward marriage counseling (X2) by 25.43%. The remaining 74.57% is influenced by variables outside of marriage policy implementation and the attitude of prospective brides and grooms toward marriage counseling, such as the lack of attention to the implementation steps of marriage policy regarding pre-marital counseling.

Based on the results of partial hypothesis testing, all null hypotheses (H_0) are accepted, suggesting that further testing through trimming theory is required to improve or refine the established paradigm or path.

The main hypothesis is that there is an influence of the performance of pre-marital course instructors on family marriage adjustments. To answer this hypothesis, path analysis is used.

To further understand the influence of variable Y on Z, a comparison is made between the calculated t-value and the t-table value. Based on the results, the calculated t-value is smaller than the t-table value ($t_{0.975; 84}$), with $t\text{-value} = 1.4150 < t\text{-table} = 1.9886$. Therefore, the null hypothesis (H_0) is accepted, indicating that the performance of pre-marital course instructors (Y) does not significantly influence family marriage adjustments (Z).

The hypothesis proposed is that there is a correlation or relationship between marriage policy implementation and the attitude of prospective brides and grooms toward marriage counseling. To answer this hypothesis, a Pearson product-moment correlation test is conducted. Based on the results, the coefficient of partial correlation is 0.6783.

To further understand the relationship between variables X1 and X2, a comparison is made between the calculated t-value and the t-table value. Based on the results, the calculated t-value is larger than the t-table value, with $t\text{-value} = 8.4596 > t_{0.975} = 1.9886$. Therefore, the null hypothesis (H_0) is rejected, indicating that both variables, Marriage Policy Implementation (X1) and the Attitude of Prospective Brides and Grooms toward Marriage Counseling (X2), have a significant and strong relationship."

This text appears to be an academic research report discussing the influence and correlations between various variables related to marriage policy implementation, attitudes of prospective brides and grooms, and the performance of pre-marital course instructors in achieving family marriage adjustments. It includes statistical analysis and findings based on the data collected during the research.

CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the main hypothesis testing in this study, it can be concluded that the implementation of marriage policy and the attitude of prospective spouses towards marriage counseling significantly affect the performance of pre-marital counseling instructors in achieving marital adjustment. This is evident from the coefficient of determination which shows that the influence of the implementation of marriage policy and the attitude of prospective spouses on the performance of pre-marital counseling instructors in achieving marital adjustment is relatively large. However, there are still shortcomings in the implementation of the policy, from socialization to control and supervision. Therefore, in order to improve marital adjustment in Garut Regency, the following recommendations are suggested:

1. Recommendations for improving policy implementation: a. Conduct comprehensive socialization to both the officials of the Marriage Counseling and Preservation Agency (BP4) and the general public and families. b. Enhance the quality of policy implementation to support the achievement of set goals.
2. Recommendations for problem-solving: a. Socialization and supervision should be carried out through coordination supported by persuasive communication. b. The socialization of marriage policy should be conducted by educators with good knowledge qualifications.
3. Recommendations for further research: Given the findings in this study and limitations in the research methodology, it is hoped that in the future, various stakeholders, including BP4

officials, will conduct further research to investigate issues beyond the variables/epsilon studied in this research that affect marriage policies.

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