



The role of UNICEF in addressing child marriage issues in Indonesia

Priscilla Dewi Kirana*✉, Qudwatin Nisak**

**UPN Veteran Jakarta, Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, Jakarta, Indonesia
Email: priscilladewikirana@upnvj.ac.id*

***Faculty of Education, Monash University, Melbourne, Australia
Email: Qudwatin.MuhammadIsa@monash.edu*

ABSTRACT

Early marriage completely undermines children's human rights. Previous studies have shown that child marriage is inextricably linked to various adverse impacts, from violated children's rights to obtain education and access to health services to intergenerational poverty. Indonesia is in the 8th highest rate of early childhood marriages internationally and is ranked 2nd in ASEAN. This phenomenon has put Indonesia in the spotlight of The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). This research, which relies on interviews and observations from various related documents, aims to analyze the role implemented by UNICEF in tackling the problem of child marriage in Indonesia for the 2017-2020 period. The theories and concepts applied are the theory of international organizations, role theory, and the concept of child marriage. Furthermore, the author used data analysis model according to Miles, Huberman, and Saldaña, which consists of data condensation, data display, and conclusion drawing/verification. The final results of this study reveal that UNICEF is playing their role in providing information on child marriage, advocating for policies, introducing innovations to address challenges, and supplying technical assistance to improve the quality of social services. In addition, UNICEF partners with governments to ensure that resources are employed to meet the needs of children, create spaces for children to be involved in the development process and strengthen collaboration for child's interests.

Keywords: *UNICEF; child marriage; role theory.*

✉ Corresponding author:

Email Address: priscilladewikirana@upnvj.ac.id

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ABSTRAK

Pernikahan dini merampas hak asasi anak. Studi terdahulu menunjukkan bahwa perkawinan anak terkait erat dengan berbagai dampak buruk, mulai dari pelanggaran hak anak untuk memperoleh pendidikan dan akses ke layanan kesehatan hingga kemiskinan antargenerasi. Indonesia menduduki peringkat ke-8 tertinggi pernikahan usia dini secara internasional dan menduduki peringkat ke-2 di ASEAN. Fenomena ini menempatkan Indonesia dalam sorotan dari United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) sebagai organisasi internasional yang fokus pada pemenuhan dan perlindungan hak anak. Penelitian yang mengandalkan wawancara dan observasi dari berbagai dokumen terkait ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis peran yang digunakan oleh UNICEF dalam menangani masalah perkawinan anak di Indonesia periode 2017-2020. Teori dan konsep yang diaplikasikan adalah teori organisasi internasional dan peran (role theory) serta konsep perkawinan anak. Di samping itu, penulis menggunakan tahapan analisis data menurut Miles, Huberman, dan Saldaña, yang terdiri atas kondensasi data, penyajian data, dan penarikan kesimpulan/verifikasi. Hasil akhir dari studi ini mengungkapkan bahwa UNICEF berperan dalam memberikan informasi tentang perkawinan anak, mengadvokasi kebijakan, memperkenalkan inovasi untuk mengatasi tantangan, dan memberikan bantuan teknis untuk meningkatkan kualitas layanan sosial. Selain itu, UNICEF bermitra dengan pemerintah untuk memastikan bahwa sumber daya digunakan untuk memenuhi kebutuhan anak, menciptakan ruang bagi anak untuk terlibat dalam proses pembangunan, dan memperkuat kolaborasi untuk kepentingan anak.

Kata Kunci: *UNICEF; perkawinan anak; teori peran.*

1. INTRODUCTION

To achieve good personality development, children need to grow up in a happy, loving, and understanding parent environment. This is especially needed because the child is fully prepared to live in society. Unfortunately, the ideal imagery that provides protection and rights to the child in some cases does not exist. For example, there can still be found cases of child marriage. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) describes child marriage as a marriage involving a child before the age of 18 and refers to a marriage that is performed officially or unofficially (Zainurrahma et al., 2019).

The issue of marriage age is seen as an important issue because it can cause adverse impacts for women, children, and also families, such as poor reproductive health, economic and psychological problems, domestic violence, divorce, as well as problems with access to education for children who marry early (Roslaili et al., 2021). Several rights guaranteed by the Convention on the Rights of the Child but violated by the existence of child marriage include the right to education under articles 28 and 31, the right to live free from violence and abuse, including sexual violence in articles 19 and 34, and the right to health according to article 24. In addition, it also violates the right of the child to be protected from exploitation according to article 36 and the right not to be separated from their parents following article 9 (Badan Pusat Statistik, 2016).

Data released by UNICEF with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) shows that the practice of child marriage continues today around the world. The report titled "Child Marriage: Latest trends and future prospects" published in 2018 shows that 21 per cent of young women currently aged 20-24 are still children when they get married. Globally there are about 650 million girls and women who live today married before their 18th birthday. At this level, UNFPA and UNICEF believe it will take about 50 more years to complete the mission of eradicating child marriage (UNICEF & UNFPA, 2018).

Meanwhile, data from Plan International, an organization engaged in development and humanity that advances children's rights and equality for girls, noted that 12 million girls marry before the age of 18 each year or almost one every 2 seconds. If there is no action from now on, more than 150 million girls will become child brides by 2030 (Plan International, 2021). Thus, the issue of child marriage is a global problem in many countries with various cultures, religions, and ethnicities.

This fact has made the issue of child marriage into the international spotlight, including international organizations, such as UNICEF, which focuses on the protection of children's right to play a role in handling cases, especially in countries that have high rates of child marriage. One of them is Indonesia. Based on the findings of the Koalisi Perempuan Indonesia in its study "Girls Not Brides", 1 in 8 Indonesian young women are married before the age of 18 (Pranita, 2021). This finding is then supported by data from the National Socioeconomic Survey conducted by Badan Pusat Statistik where the proportion of women aged 20-24 years who have the status of marrying or living together before the age of 18 years is 11.54% (2017), 11.21% (2018), 10.82% (2019), and 10.35% (2020). It is also important to know that about 22 out of 34 provinces in the country have child marriage rates that are higher than the national average (UNICEF et al., 2020).

This harm to children often occurs, not except amid the COVID-19 pandemic. This is evidenced by the findings of 34,000 applications for marriage dispensation, which increased from 2019 when there were 23,126 cases of marriage dispensation, which were filed with religious courts from January to June 2020, of which 97% were granted (Andina, 2021). The Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection (Kemen PPPA) also noted that until June 2020 the number of child marriages increased to 24 thousand amid the pandemic (Luxiana, 2020). This is because the economic vulnerability of families accompanied by school closures encourages many children to be only considered an economic burden.

With these data, Indonesia is set to be number eight as the country with the highest rate of child marriage in the world (Litha, 2020). In addition, the Council on Foreign Relations also noted that Indonesia ranks second highest in Southeast Asia after Cambodia (Program Studi Kajian Gender Sekolah Kajian Strategik dan Global Universitas Indonesia & Kementerian Pemberdayaan Perempuan dan Perlindungan Anak Republik Indonesia, 2016). This phenomenon of child marriage is clear evidence of violations of children's rights by placing them at high risk of violence and exploitation, especially children who come from poor families, live in rural areas, or have limited education.

This is where the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) as an international organization whose mission is to support the Government of Indonesia to help every child in Indonesia to realize their potential without leaving a single child must play a role in formulating faster and more integrated effort 2020 s to answer this problem. In addition, by

involving UNICEF, it is hoped that stakeholders in various sectors can increase their respective commitments to supporting efforts to prevent child marriage (Kementerian Pemberdayaan Perempuan dan Perlindungan Anak, 2020).

To better understand the case of child marriage in Indonesia and its relationship with the role of UNICEF, researcher have examined several previous studies. Rumble, one of those who have written about child marriage, said that research on child marriage in Southeast Asia is unfortunately still scarce. In Indonesia, most studies are limited to specific regions and there is little nationally representative data or analysis. The burden of child marriage is still high among adolescent girls in Indonesia, even though there is an increase in the development of social and economic life. The research carried out generally focuses on exploring the determinants of child marriage and how child marriage in Indonesia contributes significantly to the burden of child marriage at the regional and global levels (Rumble et al., 2018).

The need for research that focuses on national analysis and the lack of variations in themes, such as state collaboration with international organizations on the issue of child marriage, is the background for this research. This research is expected to add insight into the role of the international organization UNICEF in tackling the problem of child marriage at the national level. In addition, it becomes a contribution of thought for readers, consideration of stakeholders in formulating appropriate policies by including a lens of child interest in it, as well as academic references for the benefit of similarly themed research in the future.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1. Role Theory

Today, international organizations play an important role in carrying out certain functions on a global scale. Thus, it is difficult to imagine a contemporary world without them. Naturally, the role played by an international organization will affect the functions it performs in international relations. There are three main roles of international organizations as follows (Archer, 2001).

First, the most general picture of the role of an international organization is as an instrument used by its members to achieve certain goals. This is especially the case with *intergovernmental organizations* (IGO), whose members are sovereign states. Thus, when the IGO was established, it meant that a limited agreement had been reached on the institutional form for the implementation of activities in a particular area. International organizations in this regard become increasingly important when they can be used as an extension or convenient tools of what their member states are trying to achieve.

The second picture of the role of international organizations is as an arena or forum where various actions take place. In this case, the organization provides a meeting place for members to gather, discuss, debate, or cooperate. International organizations as an arena have benefited each of the competing groups who not only want a more open and public forum to talk about their point of view but also channel diplomatic reinforcement for their policies.

The third role is an independent actor. The important word here is 'independent'. International organizations are expected to act on the world scene without being significantly affected by any particular power. The actor in question in this case his capacity depends on resolutions, recommendations or orders coming from his organs capable of forcing some or even all of the members to act differently than the way they should be carried out. Thus, their

decisions are taken independently, not because of instructions emanating from one of the members, and each case is decided by international legal standards, not by the incorporation of national laws.

The discussion of the role of international organizations is also the main idea of the arguments presented by Aggestam in 2006. In his writings, Aggestam introduced *role performances* that refer to the characteristic patterns of decisions and actions carried out in a specific situational context. For the author, this role theory expressed by both Archer and Aggestam can help the author not only identify what UNICEF's role is in dealing with child marriage in Indonesia but also how it is implemented.

2.2. Child Marriage

Men and women who practice an inner-born bond, both legally, traditionally, and religiously to build a family are referred to as marriage (Kumari et al., 2020). . While the bond that unites one or both couples who are under the age of 18 can be defined as child marriage (Chotim, 2019). A child is defined as any human being who is under the age of 18 (Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989). Law No. 35 of 2014 also says that a child is someone who is not yet 18 years old, including the child in the womb.

Research related to the phenomenon of child marriage in Indonesia itself has been carried out from various points of view. Windiarti and Bestral have tried to examine the determinants of early marriage in Indonesia. The results show that unwanted pregnancy, peer influence, parental role, level of education, knowledge of reproductive health, family economic status, culture, and media exposure are significant determinants. The results also show that education is a strong protective factor in preventing child marriage. The higher the education, the lower the probability of getting married early.

Geographical areas and places of residence also affect the prevalence of child marriage. In this regard, the rural population tends to be more vulnerable to early marriage due to various factors, such as low access to education and information, lower socioeconomic status, as well as strong attachment to culture and customs (Windiarti & Besral, 2018). Agreeing with this, Minnick et al. revealed that cultural understanding and behavioural sciences can be used as a basis for conducting more comprehensive interventions to provide high-quality services and communicate the benefits of preventing child marriage in Indonesia.

This was reflected when Minnick et al. conducted a study related to the determinants of child marriage in Bone because South Sulawesi Province has one of the highest burdens (12.1%) in this case nationally. Armed with a cross-sectional method using a quantitative survey and involving 1,004 respondents, the results of the study found that about one in four parents or adolescents has perceptions that support the determinant of child marriage. Furthermore, 25.8% of parents and 26.0% of adolescents agree that a girl is considered ready for marriage after starting her period. 25.6% of parents and 32.6% of adolescents also agreed that unmarried girls over the age of 18 were considered to be a burden on the family. Thus, on the whole, the perceptions of parents and their adolescent children are not much different. Positive perceptions of the benefits of child marriage are still cultivated and widely encountered, both among parents and adolescents. This suggests that the social norms that favour child marriage is still strong (Wibowo et al., 2021).

The discussion regarding what are the factors that drive child marriage does not stop there. Dewi and Dartanto in their writings carry a premise that is no less interesting to study further. Both of them have tested quantitatively whether there is a correlation between natural disasters and child marriage in Indonesia using the 2015 National Socioeconomic Survey (SUSENAS) and the 2014 Village Potential Census (PODES). The results showed that in times of humanitarian crisis, the practice of child marriage, which greatly affected the lives of girls, actually increased in number. The study found that there was a significant association between the intensity of natural disasters and the likelihood of girls entering child marriage. Child marriage is considered to be an option for households to reduce the burden when they face the detrimental impacts of natural disasters (Dewi & Dartanto, 2018).

With so many factors that allow child marriage to occur in Indonesia, of course, solutions that can answer problems cannot be singular because the problem of child marriage itself is multi-sectoral. For example, the research of Bakker et al. believes that the vulnerability of girls to pregnancy and child marriage is motivated by the awareness that many girls in Indonesia lack the information and life skills necessary to navigate a complex world.

Meanwhile, in cases where there is a strong relationship between the number of child marriage cases and natural disasters, a different approach to solving the problem is certainly needed. For example, encouraging the attention of policymakers to carry out better disaster mitigation programs and effectively providing assistance to the most vulnerable members of society when natural disasters occur. Interventions can begin by providing humanitarian assistance that ensures security, and education, and overcomes the limitations of economic resources. Thus, child marriage is no longer the only option that must be made to survive (Dewi & Dartanto, 2018).

Another approach that can be used as a solution to this problem and is related to the research carried out by the author is the collaboration of countries with international organizations. Herviryandha in her thesis explained that the *United Nations Children's Fund* (UNICEF) as an international organization engaged in fighting for the rights of children can play a role in overcoming the problem of child marriage. It was noted that UNICEF conducted a cooperation program with the Government of Indonesia by educating and inviting the public to help prevent and end child marriage, especially in Indramayu, through social media. Although they do not have a special program at that time, UNICEF and the Government of Indonesia use social media as an alternative means of mobilizing information to the public.

A similar perspective has also been written by Kristarina in her work which illustrates that in the period 2016-2018, some of the efforts that have been made by UNICEF are to hold capacity-building programs, disseminate information through data releases, and case mainstreaming at the national level so that a child interest perspective is incorporated in all policies at all levels and at all stages, by the actors normally involved in policy-making. In this scientific paper, it is also explained how UNICEF's partners, such as Rumah KitaB, Yayasan Karampuang, dan Jaringan Aksi Remaja realizing efforts to eradicate child marriage and the obstacles they faced. In addition, Kristarina contributed to providing an understanding of UNICEF's programs that have proven to be fruitful with an increasing percentage of policymakers at the community level who have the belief that child marriage has no benefit

and an increasing percentage of parents who believe that child marriage has negative impacts (Kristarina, 2019).

3. METHOD

This type of research is qualitative research aimed at exploring and mastering the meaning that for some individuals or groups is judged to be rooted in social and humanitarian problems. The research raised by the author is descriptive and seeks to describe a phenomenon through an in-depth description. This type of research is used to present an overview of social norms to clarify the real social reality (Creswell, 2013).

Data collection is carried out through three channels. First, to obtain accurate and relevant information on the issue raised, interviews have been conducted with representatives from UNICEF's head office in Indonesia, the Indonesian Child Protection Commission (KPAI), and the Ministry of National Development Planning (Bappenas). Second, document-based research has been carried out to collect various forms of documents, such as journal articles and research papers related to the topic of the problem, as well as news from international and local media. Observations have also been made on audiovisual materials, such as online press conferences and social media materials belonging to UNICEF global and UNICEF Indonesia.

The data analysis technique used in this study is an interactive model designed by Matthew B. Miles, A. Michael Huberman, and Johnny Saldaña. According to them, there are three stages of analysis in qualitative research, such as data condensation, data display, and conclusion drawing and verification (Miles et al., 2014). At the data condensation stage, the data that has been collected will be simplified and focused in various ways, such as writing summaries, coding, and cluster determination. This is done to sort and separate data that does not support the research topic.

While in the second stage, it will be determined how to properly present the data. In qualitative research, there are several options for presenting data, namely in the form of brief descriptions, charts, images, tables, and infographics. In its development, narrative text is the most frequently used type. The presentation of the data by the author in the form of a narrative with sentences arranged regularly in paragraphs is expected to make it easier for readers to understand UNICEF and its involvement in dealing with the issue of child marriage in Indonesia.

Last, there is a process of drawing conclusions or verification where the data already collected and gone through the displaying process will be used as a reference by the author in drawing conclusions. The initial conclusions put forward may be temporary and may change if no solid and supporting evidence is found. However, if the conclusions have been proven and supported by evidence that is valid, verified, and also consistent, then the conclusions put forward are credible. Thus, the conclusions drawn by the author are expected to answer the formulation of the problem formulated from the beginning, which is how UNICEF playing the role in dealing with the problem of child marriage in Indonesia for the 2017-2020 period.

4. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

Based on an understanding of the complexity of child marriage, awareness of the phenomenon and solutions for child marriage must be designed comprehensively and

holistically by departing from the factors that are suspected of contributing and the impact of child marriage. It aims to understand how child marriage cases in Indonesia have high relevance to a global understanding of child marriage because Indonesia contributes significantly to the burden of child marriage at the regional and global levels. In addition, there is still little support in this case which suggests there is a potential influx of structural interventions that will lead to more lasting changes, such as the role of international organizations, like UNICEF.

4.1. Factors Causing and Impacting Child Marriage in Indonesia

Child marriage is a complex multidimensional problem and can occur because it is influenced by many causal factors. The factors that are suspected to contribute are economic conditions and poverty, geographical conditions, disparities in access to educational services for girls, gender inequality, limited access to comprehensive reproductive health information and education, social conflicts and disasters, and the existence of social norms that reinforce certain gender stereotypes, misuse of internet and social media access, juvenile delinquency, and interpretations of cultural traditions. In addition, public acceptance of child marriage and arranged marriages is also often referred to as another driving factor (Kementerian Pemberdayaan Perempuan dan Perlindungan Anak, 2020).

Yayasan Plan International Indonesia (Plan Indonesia) sees the issue of child marriage as a major challenge in realizing equality for girls. Departing from this idea, Plan Indonesia has collaborated with Koalisi Perempuan Indonesia untuk Keadilan dan Demokrasi in releasing a report titled “Studi Perkawinan Anak Setelah Pengesahan UU Nomor 16 Tahun 2019 tentang Perkawinan”. This report can be used as a resource to review what are the driving factors for child marriage that still occur even after the amendment of the Marriage Law. Based on the observations, there are at least 9 factors that cause the practice of child marriage, namely social (28.5%), health (16.5%), family (14.5%), economy (11.9%), information technology (11.1%), culture (10.1%), education (5.6%), religion (1.4%), and law (0.4%).

First, social factors, for example living in rural areas are still a risk factor whereas girls in rural areas are said to be two to three times more likely to marry early. Furthermore, health factors are triggered due to the child's unstable emotional state and the child's limited knowledge of reproductive health. Then, factors of improper family parenting, such as poor communication and minimal parental attention to the child.

Furthermore, economic factors are where child marriage is encouraged by parents with low socioeconomic status. There is also the factor of ease of access to information where exposure to various information can be easily accessed by children, including pornographic content. In addition, there are customary and cultural factors in the form of traditions that still perpetuate child marriage. Then, there is the educational factor where marriage decisions tend to be taken by children who drop out of school. There are also religious factors where child marriage is considered to be able to prevent children from adultery. Finally, there is the legal factor that the trial of a short marriage dispensation application tends to be based solely on the testimony of the parents.

Similar to the causal factors, the impact of child marriage is also not single and can be viewed from the following 3 aspects. First, education, the child's right to education has been

violated because the child is forced to take responsibility at an age where they are not ready physically and psychologically. Second, the workforce where the burden from the household will make it difficult for children to participate in economic development. Third, in the aspect of health where early pregnancy can increase the risk of medical complications as a result of the anatomy of the body that is not ready to conceive or give birth.

4.2. UNICEF's Role in Addressing Child Marriage in Indonesia for the Period 2017-2020

Through Archer's argument, UNICEF's role, particularly in this issue, can be identified as an instrument by which UNICEF is used by the Government of Indonesia to achieve the specific goal of helping to address child marriage in Indonesia. Therefore, when the two officially cooperate, it means that a limited agreement has been reached on the institutional form for the implementation of activities in a particular field that in this case relates to the protection and fulfilment of the rights of the child. Thus, UNICEF's presence is important because it can be used as an extension of what the Government of Indonesia is trying to achieve, or as Archer has said: as convenient tools for use by their member states.

Then, to see how this role is played, it can refer to the concept offered by Aggestam, namely role performance which is directly related to decisions and actions in the field or how a role is played by an international organization, whether in the form of decision making, choices, or setting steps and strategies that will be carried out to achieve goals. In dealing with the problem of child marriage in Indonesia for the period 2017-2020, UNICEF's role performance can be categorized into 7 things as follows.

First, providing information about the situation of child marriage in Indonesia where with sufficient, appropriate, and credible data, it is hoped that the findings and evidence from the data can reveal injustice and violations of children's rights. Efforts to build such knowledge form the basis of UNICEF's support to the government. In this way, relevant institutions in Indonesia can better and effectively address the challenges faced by children. The technical assistance provided by UNICEF related to the condition of children and women also refers to international standards to ensure their quality.

In addition, UNICEF is helping local research organizations gain access to the government to ensure that the evidence they have gathered has reached its goals. To facilitate research on children-related issues, UNICEF established a national network for users of knowledge about children, together with researchers, policymakers, and others. The focal point of the research and assessment lies in exploring and analyzing existing data to create the broadest possible picture of the current situation of children and women in Indonesia, such as what challenges and injustices they face, what are the obstacles to sustainable growth and development, and how socio-economic tendencies affect the future of children.

Examples of UNICEF's work in the field of knowledge improvement about child marriage issues are the "Child Marriage Prevention Report", which is the result of years of collaboration between UNICEF and government agencies, such as the Central Bureau of Statistics (BPS). There is also "SDG Baseline Report on Children in Indonesia" as a collaboration with the Government of Indonesia through Bappenas and the "Report on the Situation of Children in Indonesia" which was prepared in consultation with partners at various levels of government, academics, civil society, and other parties who concerned about the welfare of Indonesian children.

Second, advocacy of policies and laws that can improve the realization of problem handling, where in reality, children do not have a voice like other groups who can lobby policymakers, decision-makers, and the house of representatives so that their interests can be conveyed and maintained through negotiations. Whereas almost all government decisions, whether related to policy formulation, resource allocation, and social welfare, will all influence the child's life. Thus, it is clear that children are also a group affected by governance. Unfortunately, their interests are often unprotected.

As a UN organization with a mandate to protect children's human rights, UNICEF plays a key role in advocating for the creation of child-friendly policies and programs. Some of the efforts made by UNICEF in the context of this type of role, among others, is welcoming the revision of Law No. 1 of 1974 concerning marriages in Indonesia which raises the age of marriage of women with parental permission from the age of 16 years to 19 years to be equal to the minimum age of marriage of men.

UNICEF's representative in Indonesia, Debora Comini, said that while there is still work to be done to reduce the rate of child marriage, this decision is a step in the right direction, and this victory for children needs to be celebrated because it is an important achievement in the fight against child marriage. The amendment hopes that it will not only increase the marriage age for girls but also have an impact on efforts to ensure gender equality. UNICEF is poised to play an active role in raising awareness about the dangers of child marriage by pioneering data analysis in collaboration with the government as a follow-up (UNICEF Indonesia, 2019).

There was also the publication of the document “Advocacy for Child Protection in Indonesia” and “Advocacy for the Implementation of Child Protection and Welfare in Indonesia” which reveals how UNICEF is working with various parties to support Indonesia's child protection efforts toward the development of a comprehensive system in promoting and ensuring protection for every child. These efforts consist of strengthening evidence that can monitor child-related regulations and policies, capacity building for key parties related to child welfare, and providing innovative technical support in policy reform and various child-related programs.

Third, introduce new initiatives and innovations that can be scaled up given the need for innovative solutions to answer existing challenges. With its experience in several countries, UNICEF is using new approaches to current and long-term issues that impact children's lives, including the issue of child marriage. An example of the efforts made is the Better Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights for All in Indonesia (BERANI) program which was launched in collaboration with Bappenas and aims to overcome gender inequality which is also one of the causes of child marriage.

This is following what was conveyed by Fauzia Firdanisa, as a child protection staff at UNICEF through an interview with the author. She revealed that BERANI is trying to catch the social unrest where child marriage is still seen as common and has been going on for generations. So, making that change in social norms at the local level requires a process that is not easy. Thus, BERANI has 3 pillars that approach: first, is children who are often asked to comply with the requests of parents, including child marriage. UNICEF addresses this problem by providing access to life skills education. So, each child will have the ability to

advocate for themselves, including making life decisions that are important to them, such as with whom and when they get married.

Then, the second approach is through the community, which includes the parents. UNICEF believes that to approach social norms, there must be community involvement through community dialogue by discussing what practices are harmful to children in their communities and what can be done. Then, the last approach is taken towards public figures, more specifically religious figures. In this case, UNICEF collaborates with many parties, such as Aisyiyah, Muhammadiyah, and then Muslimat NU. Then, a toolkit was developed for ustadzah related to how they deliver discourses about preventing violence against children and child marriage, and then information related to health and reproductive rights.

Fourth, providing technical assistance to improve the quality of social services where at the local level there is often a shortage of social workers and differences in the ability of service providers to guarantee the quality of services. UNICEF then played a role in assisting the government by providing training and strengthening national policies and guidelines related to capacity building to achieve maximum results in addressing the issue of child marriage. Two of them are the “National Strategy for the Prevention of Child Marriage (STRANAS PPA)” which is expected to become a national strategy that is aligned among stakeholders, both at the central and regional levels and the “Menstrual Hygiene Management Guidelines for Teachers and Parents” published as a result of a collaboration between UNICEF and the Ministry of Education and Culture.

Fifth, partner with local governments to ensure that resources are adequately utilized to meet the needs of children who are hard to reach. Based on interviews, it is known that in addition to the head office in Jakarta, UNICEF also presents five field offices that play a role in answering specific issues in the region and paying attention to norms that have a bad impact on children's development. Thus, the key to UNICEF's work rests on the role of the field office as well.

Sixth, create a space for the child to convey thoughts and take part in the development process. UNICEF recognizes that children need to play an important role in community building and they can also act as agents of change. Therefore, one of the key components of UNICEF's role in Indonesia is to create opportunities for children to determine the nation's future. Thus, important voices for the future of this country should not be ignored. The program that is a derivative of this role is U-Report. U-Report is a communication platform pioneered by UNICEF for and from children in 2014 and persists to the present day which is expected to voice what is important to children.

UNICEF's last role is demonstrated through efforts to build and strengthen cooperation for the benefit of children to explore resources and encourage new ideas, UNICEF has established partnerships with several parties, including with Muslimat Nahdlatul Ulama (NU). Muslimat NU as an autonomous body of Jam'iyah NU and the largest women's organization in Indonesia in collaboration with UNICEF strives to provide solutions related to the problem of child marriage by organizing various activities, such as workshops with students in several Islamic boarding schools, interviews with scholars, figures, and practitioners in fields related to the issue to provide responses and enlightenment. From the series of activities, a book entitled "Menstrual Hygiene Management and Prevention of Child Marriage" was published as an effort to socialize and promote the urgency of menstrual hygiene management education

to children, preventive efforts against the practice of child marriage, and guidance for community leaders, ustazhah, Islamic boarding school administrators, and teachers (UNICEF Indonesia, 2020).

5. CONCLUSION

From the results of the study, the authors concluded that UNICEF has an important role to play in helping the Government of Indonesia to achieve the specific goal of tackling child marriage in Indonesia. This is essentially in line with the general mandate of UNICEF which consistently works to protect the rights and well-being of all children. Efforts to protect and fulfil children's rights are no exception to the issue of child marriage, including eradicating these practices that will only deprive children of their rights and threaten their lives, health, and future.

However, considering the many factors that allow child marriage to occur in Indonesia, of course, solutions that can answer problems cannot be singular. The problem of child marriage itself is also multi-sectoral and has been going on for generations. Thus, it is very important to emphasize that the eradication of child marriage is not only the responsibility of UNICEF but also the responsibility of all components of the nation, including civil society, the media, academia, and especially the government. However, UNICEF's presence can indeed help formulate faster and more integrated efforts.

Then, although this study was able to analyze UNICEF's role in dealing with the problem of child marriage in Indonesia from a different point of view from previous studies, there are still weaknesses from this study that are expected to be brought to attention by subsequent studies. The weakness in question is that the role theory used can only be implemented to analyze the role of an international organization, starting from how a role is formed to how a role is played, not yet to the stage where the role can be assessed for its effectiveness in the numbered data. In addition, the research approach taken by the author is qualitative, more aimed at interpreting phenomena and translating the complexity of a situation. Meanwhile, to test a certain theory by examining the relationship between variables so that it can be measured and determined whether or not there is a relationship between two or more variables, these characteristics lean towards quantitative research.

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