

The Effect of Knowledge of the Family Planning Program (GenRe) on Attitudes Toward Avoiding Early Marriage Among Adolescents in Pekanbaru

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ABSTRACT

Early marriage remains a serious issue in Pekanbaru City. In response to this problem, the National Population and Family Planning Board (BKKBN) launched the Generation Planning Program (GenRe), which aims to guide adolescents in avoiding the risks associated with early marriage. However, a gap still exists between adolescents' level of knowledge about the GenRe Program and their attitudes toward avoiding early marriage. This study aims to analyze the effect of knowledge about the GenRe Program on adolescents' attitudes toward avoiding early marriage in Pekanbaru City. This study employed a quantitative approach using a simple linear regression method. The sample consisted of 30 adolescents aged 15–24 years who had participated in GenRe Program activities and were selected through purposive sampling. Data were collected via an online questionnaire comprising a 14-item, multi-choice knowledge test () and a 10-item attitude scale measured using a five-point Likert scale. Data analysis was conducted using IBM SPSS Statistics, including tests for normality of residuals, Spearman's rho correlation, ANOVA, and regression coefficient analysis. The results indicated that knowledge of the GenRe Program did not have a significant effect on attitudes toward avoiding early marriage, as evidenced by a p-value of 0.060, which exceeded the significance threshold of 0.05. Therefore, H_0 was accepted and H_1 was rejected. The coefficient of determination (R^2) of 0.121 indicated that knowledge of the GenRe Program accounted for only 12.1% of the variation in attitudes toward avoiding early marriage, while the remaining 87.9% was influenced by other factors such as family support, peer influence, socioeconomic conditions, and local cultural values. These findings suggest that early marriage prevention strategies should go beyond knowledge transfer and incorporate more comprehensive approaches.

Keywords: Early Marriage, GenRe Program, Knowledge, Adolescent Attitudes.

ABSTRAK

Pernikahan dini masih menjadi permasalahan serius di Kota Pekanbaru, sebagai respons atas permasalahan tersebut, pemerintah melalui BKKBN meluncurkan Program Generasi Berencana (GenRe) yang bertujuan membina remaja agar terhindar dari risiko pernikahan dini. Namun demikian, masih ditemukan kesenjangan antara tingkat pengetahuan remaja terhadap Program GenRe dengan sikap mereka dalam menghindari pernikahan dini. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis pengaruh pengetahuan tentang Program GenRe terhadap sikap menghindari pernikahan dini pada remaja di Kota Pekanbaru. Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan kuantitatif dengan metode regresi linear sederhana.

Sampel terdiri dari 30 remaja berusia 15–24 tahun yang pernah terlibat dalam kegiatan Program GenRe, dipilih menggunakan teknik purposive sampling. Data dikumpulkan melalui kuesioner daring yang terdiri atas tes pengetahuan 14 butir pilihan ganda dan skala sikap 10 butir pernyataan dengan Skala Likert lima tingkat. Analisis data dilakukan menggunakan IBM SPSS Statistics melalui uji normalitas residual, uji korelasi Spearman's rho, uji ANOVA, serta uji koefisien regresi. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa pengetahuan Program GenRe tidak berpengaruh secara signifikan terhadap sikap menghindari pernikahan dini dengan nilai signifikansi sebesar 0,060 yang berada di atas ambang batas 0,05, sehingga H_0 diterima dan H_1 ditolak. Koefisien determinasi (R^2) sebesar 0,121 menunjukkan bahwa pengetahuan Program GenRe hanya mampu menjelaskan 12,1% perubahan sikap menghindari pernikahan dini, sedangkan 87,9% sisanya dipengaruhi oleh faktor lain seperti dukungan keluarga, pengaruh teman sebaya, kondisi sosial ekonomi, dan nilai budaya setempat. Temuan ini mengindikasikan bahwa strategi pencegahan pernikahan dini perlu diperluas melampaui sekadar transfer pengetahuan, dengan melibatkan pendekatan yang lebih komprehensif.

Kata Kunci: Pernikahan Dini, Program GenRe, Pengetahuan, Sikap Remaja.

INTRODUCTION

Early marriage is a social phenomenon that remains a major challenge for the Indonesian nation. According to 2022 data from the Central Statistics Agency (BPS), Indonesia ranks second highest in Southeast Asia for child marriage cases, with approximately 1.2 million girls marrying before the age of 18 each year. This figure indicates that despite various policies having been implemented, the practice of early marriage remains difficult to eradicate (Central Statistics Agency, 2022) . In Riau Province, the rate of early marriage remains relatively high, and Pekanbaru City, as the provincial capital, is no exception to this problem. Data from the Pekanbaru City Religious Court shows that marriage dispensations (marriages involving minors) have continued to rise over the past three years. The Riau Province Department of Child Protection, Population Control, and Family Planning (DP3AP2KB) also reported that in 2024, there were 222 prospective brides and grooms under the legal marriage age, while the Riau Regional Office of the Ministry of Religious Affairs recorded a total of 38,000 marriages, some of which involved child-aged couples (DP3AP2KB Riau, 2024) , (Kemenag Riau, 2023) .

This indicates that efforts to prevent early marriage in Pekanbaru City are still not optimal. Early marriage is a marriage entered into by a person who is relatively young. The World Health Organization (WHO) defines early marriage as a marriage in which one or both partners are still classified as children or adolescents under the age of 19. Meanwhile, according to the National Population and Family Planning Board (BKKBN), early marriage is a marriage conducted below reproductive age, specifically under 21 years for women and under 25 years for men (Latifah, 2025) . Furthermore, early marriage also has a negative impact on children's health. Couples who marry early are associated with low birth weight in children and even child mortality. Additionally, early marriage makes couples more vulnerable to domestic violence, infidelity, and divorce due to the children's psychological immaturity (Hermambang et al., 2021) . The factors underlying early marriage are complex,

extending beyond economic and educational factors to include biological factors (unwed pregnancy) as well as the influence of mass media and local culture.

Recognizing this urgency, the National Population and Family Planning Board (BKKBN) launched the Planned Generation Program (GenRe) as a strategic effort to foster the growth and development of adolescents so they become a generation that plans ahead. The GenRe Program is a government policy aimed at addressing population issues in Indonesia. This policy is mandated by BKKBN. The GenRe Program is implemented through two approaches: one targeting adolescents themselves and the other targeting families with adolescents. The GenRe Program also serves as the government's strategy to nurture Indonesian adolescents into visionary youth who are protected from the risks of the KRR Triad (Sexuality, HIV/AIDS, and Narcotics). Through the GenRe Program, adolescents are provided with information on the importance of reproductive health, life skills, and counseling and referral services for KRR to foster resilient youth (Tegar Remaja) in support of achieving small, happy, and prosperous families. A common issue encountered in the field is the still-low level of adolescents' knowledge regarding the substance of the GenRe Program, resulting in a lack of a strong attitude to avoid early marriage. This is ironic because the program has been implemented, yet knowledge transfer has not been optimal. Knowledge is a crucial domain that influences the formation of one's attitude (Notoatmodjo, 2018).

The GenRe Program is a policy formulated by the National Population and Family Planning Agency based on Law No. 52 of 2009 on Population Development and Family Planning, Article 48, Paragraph 1 (b), namely improving the quality of adolescents by providing access to information, education, counseling, and services regarding family life (Alma, 2023). Through the Generasi Berencana program, it is hoped that the practice of early marriage can be prevented by providing adolescents with an understanding of adolescent reproductive health and by strengthening the role of the family in accordance with the program's objectives. The objectives of the Generasi Berencana program should be able to address the issue of early marriage. A program is considered effective if it addresses the specific issues that need to be resolved (Rahmatilah et al., 2021). However, a common issue observed in the field is the low level of knowledge among adolescents regarding the substance of the GenRe Program, resulting in a lack of a strong attitude to avoid early marriage. This is ironic because while the program is in operation, knowledge transfer has not been optimal.

Although various studies have been conducted in other regions, no research has specifically analyzed the influence of knowledge about the GenRe Program on attitudes toward avoiding early marriage among adolescents in Pekanbaru City using simple linear regression. The novelty of this study lies in its focus on knowledge regarding the GenRe Program's content, rather than merely general knowledge about early marriage, and its application to adolescents in Pekanbaru City, who possess distinct social and cultural characteristics. Given these conditions, the main research problem is that the extent to which adolescents' knowledge of the GenRe Program influences their attitudes toward avoiding early marriage remains

unclear. Although the GenRe Program has been implemented as one of the government's strategies through the National Family Planning Coordination Board (BKKBN) to prevent early marriage, a gap persists between adolescents' knowledge of the program and their actual attitudes toward avoiding early marriage. Therefore, a more in-depth analysis is needed to measure the relationship and the extent of the influence of the knowledge variable on this attitude. This study uses simple linear regression to determine whether there is a significant influence between knowledge of the GenRe Program as the independent variable (X) and the attitude toward avoiding early marriage as the dependent variable (Y) among adolescents in Pekanbaru City. The findings of this study are expected to provide concrete input for the National Family Planning Coordination Board (BKKBN), the Education Office, and the managers of PIK-R/M in Pekanbaru in designing more targeted educational strategies, so that the gap between adolescents' knowledge and attitudes can be bridged and serve as a basis for evaluation in improving the effectiveness of the GenRe Program's implementation.

METHODS

This study employs a quantitative approach with a causal-comparative design to analyze the influence of knowledge about the Family Planning Generation (GenRe) Program on attitudes toward avoiding early marriage among adolescents in Pekanbaru City. By using quantitative methods, researchers can understand the extent of a phenomenon, which can later be used for comparison (Soesana et al., 2023). The analysis method used is simple linear regression, which aims to determine whether there is a significant influence between the independent variable (X), knowledge of the GenRe Program, and the dependent variable (Y), the attitude toward avoiding early marriage. The population in this study consists of adolescents aged 15–24 years residing in Pekanbaru City. The sampling technique employed was purposive sampling, which involves selecting samples based on specific criteria, with a sample size of 30 adolescents who had previously received information sessions or participated in GenRe Program activities. The independent variable (X) in this study is knowledge of the GenRe Program, while the dependent variable (Y) is the attitude toward avoiding early marriage, measured by adolescents' tendency to postpone marriage until reaching the ideal age as recommended by the National Family Planning Coordination Board (BKKBN). Data collection was conducted using an online questionnaire (Google Form) consisting of two parts. The first section was a knowledge test containing 14 multiple-choice questions to measure the respondents' level of understanding of the GenRe Program's content. The second section was an attitude scale consisting of 10 statements using a five-point Likert scale, ranging from strongly disagree to strongly agree, to measure the respondents' attitudes toward efforts to avoid early marriage. The collected data was then analyzed using IBM SPSS Statistics software through several stages. First, validity and reliability tests were conducted to ensure the research instrument was suitable for use. Second, normality tests using the Kolmogorov-Smirnov and Shapiro-Wilk tests were performed to determine the data distribution. If the normality test results

indicated the data were not normally distributed, a nonparametric Spearman's rho correlation test was conducted as a supplementary analysis. Third, a simple linear regression analysis () was still performed to determine the magnitude of the independent variables' influence on the dependent variable through the coefficient of determination (R^2) and a significance test (t-test). Thus, the analysis results are expected to provide an empirical picture of the influence of knowledge of the GenRe Program on attitudes toward avoiding early marriage among adolescents in Pekanbaru City.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The prevalence of early marriage in Pekanbaru, combined with the suboptimal transfer of knowledge from the GenRe Program to adolescents, served as the starting point for this study. The following discussion section presents the results of an empirical analysis to measure the extent of the influence of knowledge about the GenRe Program on attitudes toward avoiding early marriage among 30 adolescent respondents in Pekanbaru City. This section presents the results of data analysis obtained from 34 adolescent respondents in Pekanbaru City.

Table 1. Descriptive Statistical Analysis

Variabel	N	Min	Max	Mean	Std. Dev
Genre Knowledge	30	12	14	13,73	0,521
Avoidance Attitude	30	10	50	47,57	7,523

Table 1.1 presents an overview of the data from 30 respondents who are aware of the GenRe Program. For the GenRe Program knowledge variable, the lowest score obtained by respondents was 12 and the highest was 14. This data indicates the level of respondents' knowledge about the GenRe Program and the strength of their attitudes toward avoiding early marriage. The GenRe Program knowledge variable (X) shows a mean value of 13.73 with a standard deviation of 0.521, indicating that respondents have a relatively high and homogeneous level of knowledge regarding the GenRe Program. For the GenRe Program knowledge variable, the lowest score obtained by respondents was 12 and the highest was 14. Meanwhile, the variable regarding the attitude toward avoiding early marriage (Y) had a mean value of 47.57 with a standard deviation of 7.523, indicating that respondents exhibited a generally high tendency to avoid early marriage but with greater variation among them. This indicates that the respondents are already familiar with and understand the GenRe Program well.

For the variable regarding the attitude toward avoiding early marriage, the lowest respondent score was 10 and the highest was 50. The average score was 47.57, indicating that most respondents held a strong attitude toward avoiding early marriage. However, the standard deviation of 7.523 indicates that respondents' answers were more varied compared to the knowledge variable, meaning there were

still some respondents whose attitudes differed significantly from the average – both those with very strong attitudes and those with relatively weak attitudes toward avoiding early marriage. Overall, this descriptive data indicates that, on average, the respondents in this study already possess good knowledge about the GenRe Program and a positive attitude toward avoiding early marriage. Although the respondents have demonstrated good knowledge and positive attitudes descriptively, a normality test is required to ensure the data distribution before regression analysis is conducted. The residual normality test is used to determine whether the data obtained from the research results are normally distributed or not (Fitri et al., 2023) . The results of the residual normality test are presented in Table 2 below.

Table 2. Residual Normality Test

Variabel	Kolmogorov-Smirnov Statistic	Df	Sig.	Shapiro-Wilk Statistic	Df	Sig.
Unstandardized Residual	0,339	30	0,000	0,512	30	0,000

The testing was conducted using two methods simultaneously, namely the Kolmogorov Smirnov test and the Shapiro-Wilk test. The basis for decision-making is that if the significance is less than 0.05, the conclusion is that the data is not normally distributed; if the significance is greater than 0.05, the data is normally distributed (Purnomo, 2016) .

Based on Table 2, the GenRe Program knowledge variable (X) obtained a significance value of 0.000 in both tests. Similarly, the variable regarding the attitude toward avoiding early marriage (Y) also obtained a significance value of 0.000. Since both significance values are less than 0.05, it can be concluded that the data for both variables are not normally distributed. Consequently, the respondents' answers are not evenly distributed but tend to cluster around certain values. This likely occurred because most respondents provided nearly uniform answers, particularly for the GenRe Program knowledge variable, which has a very narrow score range only between 12 and 14. When the normality test indicates a non-normal distribution, an alternative method that can be used is the nonparametric Spearman's Rho test . In this nonparametric test, the researcher chose to use the Spearman's Rho test, as presented in the following Table 3

Table 3. Spearman's Rho Correlation Test

Variabel	R	Sig.	N
X → Y	0,218	0,247	30

This correlation test aims to determine whether an increase in respondents' knowledge of the GenRe Program leads to a corresponding increase in their attitudes toward avoiding early marriage. The decision criterion is that if the significance value

is less than 0.05, there is a significant relationship between the two variables; conversely, if the significance value is greater than 0.05, there is no significant relationship.

Based on Table 3, a correlation coefficient of 0.218 was obtained with a p-value of 0.247. Since the p-value of 0.247 is greater than 0.05, it can be concluded that there is no significant relationship between knowledge of the GenRe Program and the attitude toward avoiding early marriage. The correlation coefficient of 0.218 indicates that the direction of the relationship between the two variables is positive, meaning that as knowledge of the GenRe Program increases, the attitude toward avoiding early marriage also tends to increase. However, the strength of this relationship is classified as very weak because the value of 0.218 falls within the range of 0.00 to 0.25, which is categorized as a very weak correlation.

In other words, although there is a tendency that adolescents who are more familiar with the GenRe Program have a better attitude toward avoiding early marriage, this relationship is not strong enough and is not statistically significant. This indicates that the attitude toward avoiding early marriage among adolescents in Pekanbaru is likely more influenced by factors other than knowledge of the GenRe Program, such as family influence, social environment, or local cultural values. This is supported by previous research indicating that various factors contributing to the sharp rise in marriage rates over the last two months of 2023 were influenced by parental expectations that their children fulfill their role in ensuring family well-being (Sari & Jatiningsih, 2024) .

After determining the strength of the relationship between the variables, a simple linear regression analysis was conducted to determine the magnitude of the influence of variable X on variable Y, as presented in Table 4 below."

Table 4. Model Summary

R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error
0,348	0,121	0,090	7,178

Table 4 presents the Model Summary results, which aim to determine the extent to which the GenRe Program knowledge variable explains or influences the variable of the attitude toward avoiding early marriage. Based on Table 4, an R value of 0.348 was obtained, indicating that the strength of the relationship between the GenRe Program knowledge variable and the attitude toward avoiding early marriage is classified as weak. This value is slightly higher than the results of the previous Spearman correlation test because it was calculated using a different method, but it still indicates a relatively weak relationship between the two variables. The most important value in this table is the R-Square of 0.121. This value is called the coefficient of determination, which indicates the extent to which variable X contributes to variable Y. The figure 0.121 means that knowledge of the GenRe Program can only explain 12.1% of the variation in the attitude toward avoiding early

marriage. Thus, out of the 100% of factors influencing adolescents' attitudes toward avoiding early marriage, knowledge of the GenRe Program contributes only 12.1%.

Meanwhile, the remaining 87.9% is influenced by other factors not examined in this study. These factors likely include economic and poverty-related factors, socio-cultural factors, parental pressure or coercion, promiscuity, curiosity about sexuality, the environment, low educational levels, limited job opportunities, the influence of mass media, as well as the religious views, beliefs, and values prevalent in society (Hermawan & Sary, 2021) . The Adjusted R Square value of 0.090 is a correction of the R-Square value that accounts for the number of respondents and variables in the study, and its smaller value compared to the R-Square further reinforces that the contribution of GenRe Program knowledge toward the attitude of avoiding early marriage is indeed relatively small.

To test the validity of the regression model used, an F-test was conducted using an ANOVA table, as presented in Table 5 below

Table 5. ANOVA

	Sum of Squares	Df	F	Sig.
Regression	198,672	1	3,856	0,060
Residual	1442,695	28		
Total	1641,367	29		

Table 5 presents the results of the ANOVA test, which was conducted to determine whether the regression model used in this study is valid and can be used to predict the effect of knowledge of the GenRe Program on attitudes toward avoiding early marriage. Based on Table 5, the calculated F-value is 3.856 with a significance level of 0.060. Since the significance level of 0.060 is greater than 0.05, it can be concluded that the regression model in this study is not statistically significant. This means that the GenRe Program knowledge variable is not strong enough to serve as a reliable predictor in explaining changes in attitudes toward avoiding early marriage among adolescents in Pekanbaru City. Although the significance value of 0.060 is only slightly above the 0.05 threshold, this difference must still be respected statistically and cannot be simply ignored.

The Regression Sum of Squares value of 198.672 is much smaller than the Residual Sum of Squares value of 1442.695. This further clarifies that the variation in the data explained by the GenRe Program knowledge variable is very small compared to the variation in the data that cannot be explained by the model, meaning there are still many other factors beyond GenRe Program knowledge that play a greater role in influencing adolescents' attitudes toward avoiding early marriage.

After the regression model was tested for suitability, a regression coefficient test was conducted to determine the nature and significance of the influence of variable X on variable Y. The hypotheses tested are as follows:

H₀: There is no significant effect of GenRe Program knowledge (X) on the attitude toward avoiding early marriage (Y)

H₁: There is a significant effect of GenRe Program knowledge (X) on the attitude toward avoiding early marriage (Y). As presented in Table 6 below

Table 6. Regression Coefficients

	B	Std. Error	Beta	T	Sig.
Constant	-21,449	35,171		-0,610	0,547
Genre Knowledge	5,025	2,559	0,348	1,964	0,060

Table 6 presents the results of the regression coefficient test, which is the core of the simple linear regression analysis in this study. This table aims to determine whether knowledge of the GenRe Program significantly influences attitudes toward avoiding early marriage, while also describing the nature of this influence through a mathematical equation. The basis for the decision is that if the significance value is less than 0.05, then variable X has a significant effect on variable Y, whereas if the significance value is greater than 0.05, then variable X does not have a significant effect on variable Y.

Based on Table 6, the constant (a) is -21.449 and the regression coefficient for the GenRe Program knowledge variable (b) is 5.025; thus, the simple linear regression equation in this study is as follows:

$$Y = -21.449 + 5.025X$$

A constant value of -21.449 means that if there is absolutely no knowledge of the GenRe Program or if the value is considered zero, then the attitude toward avoiding early marriage is -21.449. This negative value should not be interpreted literally because, in reality, no respondent had a knowledge score of zero, given that all respondents in this study were adolescents who had participated in GenRe Program activities and thus had a minimum knowledge score of 12. This negative value is merely a mathematical consequence of the regression equation when the line is extended to the point $X = 0$, which is practically irrelevant in the context of this study.

The regression coefficient for the GenRe Program knowledge variable, which is 5.025, indicates that for every one-point increase in the GenRe Program knowledge score, the attitude toward avoiding early marriage increases by 5.025 points. This positive coefficient indicates that the direction of the influence of the independent variable (X) on the dependent variable (Y) is positive; that is, the higher the adolescents' knowledge of the GenRe Program, the stronger their attitude toward avoiding early marriage. However, based on a significance value of 0.060, which is greater than 0.05, it can be concluded that knowledge of the GenRe Program does not significantly influence the attitude toward avoiding early marriage among adolescents in Pekanbaru City; therefore, H₀ is accepted and H₁ is rejected.

Mathematically, there is a positive relationship between knowledge of the GenRe Program and the attitude toward avoiding early marriage; however, this influence is not strong enough to be considered statistically significant. These results indicate that knowledge of the GenRe Program alone does not necessarily directly change adolescents' attitudes toward avoiding early marriage, and it is likely that other factors play a more dominant role in shaping these attitudes, such as family support, peer influence, socioeconomic conditions, and the cultural values prevalent in the adolescents' environment.

Overall, the results of the simple linear regression analysis in this study show that knowledge of the GenRe Program does not have a significant effect on attitudes toward avoiding early marriage among adolescents in Pekanbaru, with a significance value of 0.060, which is above the 0.05 threshold. The contribution of knowledge of the GenRe Program to the attitude of avoiding early marriage is only 12.1%, while the remaining 87.9% is influenced by other variables not examined in this study. This finding aligns with the view that knowledge alone does not always correlate directly with changes in a person's attitude, as attitude change is a complex process influenced by many factors simultaneously. These results align with the theory of behavioral change proposed by Green (1980) in the PRECEDE model, which states that knowledge is one of the predisposing factors influencing behavior and attitudes, but not the sole determining factor. Reinforcing factors such as social support and enabling factors such as access to information also play a significant role in shaping an individual's attitudes (Green & Kreuter, 1980).

CONCLUSION

Based on the results of a simple linear regression analysis conducted on 30 adolescent respondents in Pekanbaru who had participated in the Generasi Berencana (GenRe) Program, it can be concluded that knowledge of the GenRe Program does not significantly influence attitudes toward avoiding early marriage, with a significance value of 0.060 – which is above the 0.05 threshold – therefore H_0 is accepted and H_1 is rejected. Although the direction of the effect is positive, as indicated by a regression coefficient of 5.025, the contribution of knowledge about the GenRe Program to the attitude of avoiding early marriage is only 12.1% based on the coefficient of determination (R^2), while the remaining 87.9% is influenced by other factors not examined in this study. This finding indicates that providing knowledge about the GenRe Program alone is insufficient to foster a strong attitude toward avoiding early marriage among adolescents in Pekanbaru City, as adolescents' attitudes are likely shaped more by dominant factors such as family support, peer influence, socioeconomic conditions, and prevailing cultural values in their surroundings. Therefore, the National Family Planning Board (BKKBN), the Education Department, and the managers of PIK-R/M in Pekanbaru City need to design a more comprehensive educational strategy that does not focus solely on knowledge transfer but also strengthens other supporting factors such as family involvement, reinforcement of social values, and improved access to adolescent

counseling services so that the GenRe Program can be more effective in preventing early marriage.

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