E-ISSN: 2502-5368 ISSN: 2085-8353
MUWAZAH
JURNAL KAJIAN GENDER
DOI: https://doi.org/10.28918/2ba9g659

Local Government Efforts in Preventing Early Marriage: A Study of the Women's Empowerment and Child Protection Service of Bengkalis Regency

Mustiqowati Ummul Fithriyyah[1], Anggun Wulan Sari[2]
[1,2]Universitas Islam Negeri Sultan Syarif Kasim Riau, Indonesia
Correspondence: mustiqowati@uin-suska.ac.id

Article History
Submitted:
July 05, 2026
Reviewed:
Sept 24, 2026
Approved:
Nov 4, 2026

Abstract
This study aims to analyze the role of the Women's Empowerment and Child Protection Office (DP3A) in preventing early marriage in Bengkalis Regency. The research method used is a qualitative approach with data collection techniques through interviews, observation, and documentation. The research informants consisted of the Head of DP3A Bengkalis Regency, the division of child rights fulfillment and protection, the division of women's quality of life and child protection, and community members who experienced early marriage. The results of the study show that the DP3A of Bengkalis Regency has implemented various efforts to prevent early marriage through persuasive, educative, and informative communication approaches in the form of socialization, advocacy, and Communication, Information, and Education (CIE) activities. In addition, DP3A also collaborates with various parties such as the Ministry of Religious Affairs, village governments, schools, and community organizations to increase public awareness of the negative impacts of early marriage. However, in its implementation there are still several obstacles, including limited human resources, low community participation in socialization activities, and limited dissemination of information in several village areas. Therefore, it is necessary to improve communication strategies, strengthen cross-sector coordination, and expand the coverage of socialization programs so that efforts to prevent early marriage in Bengkalis Regency can run more effectively and sustainably.

Keywords: *Role, Prevention, Early Marriage*

INTRODUCTION

Child marriage remains a serious social and legal issue in Indonesia because it has implications not only for family life, but also for the fulfillment of children's rights, women's protection, and the quality of human resources (Aditya & Waddington, 2021). Marriage is essentially a sacred bond between a man and a woman aimed at forming a happy and lasting family based on the belief in the One Almighty God, as regulated in Law Number 1 of 1974

concerning Marriage. Therefore, every prospective husband and wife is expected to possess physical, psychological, emotional, and economic maturity before entering marriage. The state also guarantees the protection of children's rights through The 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia Article 28B paragraph (2), which emphasizes that every child has the right to survival, growth, development, and protection from violence and discrimination (Saepullah et al., 2025). In line with this provision, Law Number 35 of 2014 concerning Child Protection defines a child as every person under the age of 18, including children still in the womb. This regulation indicates that children should receive protection and opportunities to develop optimally before assuming adult responsibilities such as marriage and parenthood (Prasetyo, 2023).

The issue of child marriage in Indonesia has become increasingly important because the practice continues to occur despite legal reforms aimed at limiting underage marriage. Previously, Article 7 paragraph (1) of Law Number 1 of 1974 concerning Marriage allowed marriage at the age of 16 for women and 19 for men.(Nafhani et al., 2026) However, this provision was considered discriminatory and unable to provide adequate protection for girls, particularly regarding reproductive health, education, and social development (Janighorban et al., 2022). Consequently, the government amended the regulation through Law Number 16 of 2019 concerning Amendments to Law Number 1 of 1974 on Marriage, which established the minimum marriage age at 19 years for both men and women (Setiawan et al., 2021; Sofiani, 2022). This amendment reflects the state's effort to ensure greater maturity and readiness before marriage takes place. Nevertheless, the implementation of the regulation still faces significant challenges because cultural traditions, economic pressures, low educational attainment, and weak public awareness continue to encourage the practice of early marriage in many regions, particularly in rural communities (Ebetürk, 2021; Musfiroh & Mubarok, 2024).

Child marriage has multidimensional impacts that affect psychological, health, educational, economic, and social aspects of life. Psychologically, adolescents who marry at an early age often experience stress, anxiety, emotional instability, and difficulties in adapting to household responsibilities because they have not yet reached mental maturity (Rofi'ah et al., 2025). From a health perspective, early marriage increases the risk of reproductive health problems, pregnancy complications, miscarriage, maternal mortality, anemia, and stunting

among children. Girls who become pregnant at a young age are physically unprepared for childbirth, thereby increasing health risks for both mother and baby (Duby et al., 2021). In the educational aspect, early marriage frequently causes children, especially girls, to discontinue their education, limiting their opportunities to develop skills and improve their quality of life. Socially, early marriage often leads to domestic conflict, economic instability, domestic violence, social isolation, and higher divorce rates. Therefore, child marriage is not merely a personal or family issue, but also a broader social problem that hinders efforts to achieve gender equality and sustainable human development (Ririn Aminarsih & Farid Pribadi, 2024; Rohayana, 2020).

The persistence of child marriage in Indonesia can be observed through statistical data and social realities in various regions. According to data from Statistics Indonesia (BPS) in 2024, the proportion of women aged 20-24 who married before the age of 18 reached 6.92 percent, meaning that nearly seven out of every one hundred young women in Indonesia experienced child marriage (Yuniar et al., 2022). In addition, data from the Religious Courts showed that there were approximately 40-45 thousand marriage dispensation applications submitted in 2024. In Riau Province alone, 944 child marriage dispensation cases were recorded in 2023. Specifically in Bengkalis Regency, data from the Women's Empowerment and Child Protection Service (DP3A) revealed an increase in early marriage dispensation requests, from 39 cases in 2023 to 48 cases in 2024. These figures demonstrate that child marriage remains prevalent despite stricter legal regulations. The increasing number of dispensation requests also indicates that many families still seek legal exceptions to marry off children under the minimum age requirement established by law (Disparbudpora Bengkalis, 2024).

From the news above, it is known that teenagers are expected not to marry at a child age. This is because it triggers several risks due to the body's unpreparedness for childbirth, which can increase maternal mortality rates, lack of knowledge related to parenting patterns, and vulnerability to violence and divorce. Based on data obtained from DP3A of Bengkalis Regency, namely:

Tabel 1. Data on Early Marriage Dispensation Requests in Bengkalis Regency

No	Year	Number of Requests
1	2023	39

2	2024	48

Source: DP3A Kabupaten Bengkalis, 2025

From the table above, it is known that in 2023 there were 39 cases of early marriage in Bengkalis Regency, and in 2024 this has increased, where up until 2024, there have been 48 cases of early marriage in Bengkalis Regency. In this case, early marriage dispensation is a marriage permit granted by the court (Religious Court or District Court) to prospective brides and grooms who have not reached the age of 19, in accordance with Law Number 16 of 2019 and Supreme Court Regulation (Perma) Number 5 of 2019. This application is submitted by parents or guardians and must meet various administrative requirements as well as proof of physical and mental readiness to marry through a court hearing.

In response to this issue, the Women's Empowerment and Child Protection Service (DP3A) of Bengkalis Regency plays an important role in implementing policies and programs related to women's empowerment and child protection, including efforts to prevent child marriage. DP3A is responsible for formulating policies, conducting coordination, facilitating socialization programs, and carrying out monitoring and evaluation related to women and children's welfare (Saputra & Rahayu, 2024). One of the programs implemented is the improvement of women's quality of life and protection program, which includes activities aimed at increasing children's and adolescents' understanding of the dangers of early marriage (Waliddra & Simanjuntak, 2023). Through socialization and educational activities, DP3A seeks to raise awareness regarding reproductive health, children's rights, and the long-term impacts of child marriage. However, based on field observations, public understanding regarding the risks of early marriage remains relatively low. Many communities still perceive early marriage as a common cultural practice without fully understanding its negative consequences for health, education, and family welfare. This condition indicates that preventive programs and public education efforts still require strengthening and wider community involvement (Syam & Ridwan, 2021).

Based on these conditions, research regarding the role of the Women's Empowerment and Child Protection Service (DP3A) of Bengkalis Regency in preventing child marriage becomes important and relevant. The increasing number of marriage dispensation cases in Bengkalis Regency demonstrates that legal regulations alone are insufficient to address the problem of child marriage. Preventive efforts require collaboration between government

institutions, families, educational institutions, religious leaders, and the wider community (Ramadhani & Hidayat, 2024). Furthermore, understanding how DP3A carries out its functions, the obstacles it faces, and the effectiveness of its programs is necessary to evaluate existing policies and formulate more effective strategies for child marriage prevention. Therefore, this study aims to analyze the role of DP3A in preventing child marriage in Bengkalis Regency, identify the factors influencing the persistence of child marriage, and examine the challenges encountered in implementing child protection policies at the regional level.

DISCUSSION

The Role of the Office for Women's Empowerment and Child Protection (DP3A) in Preventing Early Marriage in Bengkalis Regency

The prevention of early marriage involves education, family economic empowerment, improvement of adolescent education quality, strengthening of the law, and psychosocial support so that adolescents are mentally, physically, and financially ready to marry at a mature age, with the main focus on raising awareness of its negative impacts and providing a better future through skills and education. Regarding the role of the Office for Women's Empowerment and Child Protection (DP3A) in preventing early marriage in Bengkalis Regency, it can be seen from the following research analysis description:

Communication Issues

According to (Sedarmayanti, 2013), communication problems often occur due to misunderstandings in sentence delivery, the use of language that is difficult to understand, unclear or incomplete information, as well as inconsistency in individual communication styles. In an organization, communication plays an important role because it serves as a means of conveying information, coordination, and mutual understanding in achieving organizational goals. In the context of research on the role of the Women's Empowerment and Child Protection Agency (DP3A) in preventing early marriage in Bengkalis Regency, the communication aspect becomes one of the important factors in delivering information and education to the community regarding the dangers and negative impacts of early marriage (Ni'mah & Nurani, 2022).

Based on the results of an interview with the Head of the Women's Empowerment and Child Protection Service (DP3A) of Bengkalis Regency on January 13, 2026, it is known that the form of communication used in efforts to prevent early-age marriage is carried out through persuasive, educative, and informative approaches (Marhamah et al., 2022). These approaches are implemented through various activities such as socialization, advocacy, and Communication, Information, and Education (KIE) (Rahmatullah & Chaer, 2020). This approach aims to increase public knowledge and awareness regarding the negative impacts of early-age marriage, both in terms of health, education, social, and economic aspects. Through these socialization and advocacy activities, the community is expected to understand the importance of delaying marriage until reaching sufficient physical and mental maturity.

The following is one of the socialization activities carried out by the Women's Empowerment and Child Protection Service (DP3A) of Bengkalis Regency in preventing early-age marriage in Bengkalis Regency as shown in the following figure:



Figure 1. Socialization Activities in Preventing Early-Age Marriage in Bengkalis Regency
Source: Instagram Account of the Women's Empowerment and Child Protection Service (DP3A) of Bengkalis Regency

In addition, the results of an interview with the Division of Fulfillment of Children's Rights and Child Protection show that the communication carried out by DP3A mostly uses direct communication with the community. This direct communication is conducted through counseling activities, community meetings, and dialogues with parents and adolescents.

Direct communication is considered more effective because it allows direct interaction between officers and the community so that the messages delivered can be understood more clearly. Through this direct communication, the community can obtain information regarding the risks of early-age marriage and the importance of education for the future of children (Anwar Mulyaman, 2025; Purwasih et al., 2023).

However, based on the results of interviews with community members who have experienced early-age marriage in Bengkalis Regency, it is known that there are still people who have not received adequate information regarding the prevention of early-age marriage. One community member stated that there had never been any counseling conducted in their village, so information regarding the prohibition of marriage at a young age was only known through administrative requirements at the Office of Religious Affairs (KUA). This shows that the dissemination of information carried out by DP3A has not fully reached all communities evenly, especially in areas far from the center of socialization activities (Fitriani & Mulyadi, 2024).

In an effort to improve the dissemination of information, the DP3A of Bengkalis Regency also conveys information through various methods, both directly and indirectly. Direct delivery of information is carried out through socialization activities, counseling, and meetings with communities in schools and village environments. Meanwhile, indirect delivery of information is carried out through social media, public campaigns, and cooperation with various institutions related to child protection. This approach aims to increase public awareness regarding the dangers of early-age marriage and the importance of protecting children's rights (Khalimatunnisa, 2023).

Although various communication efforts have been carried out, the results of from the results of observations, it is known that the comparison between the number of children and early marriages in Bengkalis Regency is as follows:

Table 2. Comparison Between the Number of Children and Early Marriages in Bengkalis Regency

No	Category	Age
1	Children aged 15 to 19 years	47.853
2	Children who engage in early marriage (48 couples)	96

Source: Renstra BKKBN Kabupaten Bengkalis

Based on the table above, it is known that the figure 47,853 refers to the number of children in the age category of 15 to 19 years. As a comparison, the total population of Bengkalis Regency in 2024 was recorded at 584,916 thousand people. Meanwhile, the number 96 refers to the number of marriage dispensation requests submitted by residents under the age of 19 years in Bengkalis Regency.

In this case, although the overall marriage rate in Indonesia is currently declining, cases of early marriage in several regions of Riau, including Bengkalis, are still a concern due to economic factors and school dropout rates. Therefore, socialization regarding the prevention of early marriage is very important to provide understanding to the community, especially parents and children, about the negative impacts of early-age marriage. This step aims to reduce the number of early marriages by educating the community about reproductive health risks (stunting, maternal and infant mortality), socio-economic impacts (school dropouts, poverty), and children's rights in order to create a better future (Pratama & Kusuma, 2023).

Organizational Structure Issues

According to (Sedarmayanti, 2013), organizational structure issues can arise due to power struggles between departments, differences in interests, conflicting evaluation systems, competition in the allocation of limited resources, as well as dependencies between work groups in achieving organizational goals. In the context of research on the role of the Women's Empowerment and Child Protection Agency (DP3A) in preventing early marriage in Bengkalis Regency, organizational structure issues can be seen from the limitations of human resources owned by the agency. Based on an interview with the Head of DP3A Bengkalis Regency on January 13, 2026, it was explained that there are challenges in the form of a limited number of personnel and technical competencies possessed by the officers. This condition impacts the suboptimal reach of socialization activities and guidance provided to the community regarding the prevention of early marriage.

The limitation in the number of personnel and technical competence has become one of the obstacles in implementing the early-age marriage prevention program in Bengkalis Regency. With the limited number of staff, the implementation of socialization activities cannot optimally reach all regions, especially in areas with a wide geographical coverage. This was also conveyed by the Division of Fulfillment of Children's Rights and Child Protection, which stated that counseling activities require human resources who are capable of communicating directly with the community, yet the number of available personnel is still

limited. As a result, counseling activities regarding the dangers of early-age marriage and reproductive health have not been implemented optimally across all areas of Bengkalis Regency.

In addition, the Division of Quality of Life and Protection of Women and Children also stated that the number of personnel often does not correspond to the large area that must be covered. This condition causes the approach carried out by DP3A to be less extensive and cannot be implemented intensively in every region. The lack of staff means that socialization activities can only be conducted in several specific areas, so there are still communities that have not received adequate information regarding the negative impacts of early-age marriage. This shows that organizational structural issues, particularly related to the limitation of human resources, remain an obstacle in efforts to prevent early-age marriage in Bengkalis Regency (Nurhayati & Setyowati, 2022).



Figure 2. Coordination Meeting Activities in Preventing Early-Age Marriage in Bengkalis Regency

Source: Instagram Account of the Women's Empowerment and Child Protection Service (DP3A) of Bengkalis Regency

In addition to socialization activities, DP3A also conducts education regarding the risks of early marriage and reproductive health to adolescents and the community. This activity aims to increase public knowledge about the social, economic, and health impacts that may arise from early-age marriage. On the other hand, the main objective of implementing this program is to reduce the number of early-age marriages in Bengkalis Regency. This is also in line with the regional government program that launched the Child-Friendly Caring Village

Program (Desa Ramah Peduli Anak) since 2021, one of whose objectives is to prevent child marriage. Through these various efforts, it is expected that public awareness regarding the importance of protecting children's rights will continue to increase so that cases of early-age marriage in Bengkalis Regency can be minimized (Setyawan & Rahmawati, 2024).

Personal Problems

According to (Sedarmayanti, 2013), personal problems arise due to a mismatch between an individual's personal goals or social values and the behavior they display in their daily lives. In the context of this research regarding the role of the Women's Empowerment and Child Protection Service (DP3A) in preventing early-age marriage in Bengkalis Regency, personal problems can be seen from how individuals understand the social values that exist in society and how they make decisions related to marriage at a young age.

Based on the results of interviews with the Head of DP3A of Bengkalis Regency, the efforts made to address these problems include providing education regarding the dangers of child marriage, empowering family economic conditions, and conducting socialization about children's rights in schools and within the community. This educational effort aims to provide understanding to the public that early marriage has various negative impacts, such as school dropout, an increased risk of domestic violence, reproductive health problems, and the potential occurrence of stunting in children.

In addition, the Division of Fulfillment of Children's Rights and Child Protection explained that the formation of social values is also carried out through strengthening religious norms and limiting social interactions that are considered to have the potential to cause negative behavior among adolescents (Putra, 2023). From a religious perspective, particularly in Islamic teachings, maintaining proper interaction between men and women and avoiding dating are considered ways to preserve personal dignity and prevent behaviors that may lead to promiscuity. This religion-based approach is expected to shape the character of adolescents so that they become more careful in their social interactions and have the awareness to delay marriage until reaching a mature age. Meanwhile, the Division of Quality of Life and Protection of Women and Children also emphasized the importance of providing children with an understanding that formal education plays a very important role in their future compared to marrying at a young age (Pitrianti et al., 2021).

On the other hand, the results of interviews with community members show that the social environment in several areas still views early-age marriage as a topic of conversation

or gossip among the community. Nevertheless, this phenomenon also indicates that people are beginning to pay attention to cases of early marriage occurring in their environment. Therefore, DP3A continues to encourage improvements in the quality of education, expand access to information regarding reproductive health, and build a social environment that is more concerned about child protection. Through these efforts, it is expected that an environment that supports the optimal growth and development of children can be created so that the practice of early-age marriage in Bengkalis Regency can continue to be minimized (Maulida et al., 2025).

Factors That Hinder the Prevention of Early Marriage in Bengkalis Regency
Optimization of Children's Capacity

According to Stranas PPA (PPN/Bappenas, 2020), one of the important strategies in efforts to prevent child marriage is ensuring that children have resilience and are able to become agents of change in their surrounding environment. The resilience referred to here is the ability of children to face various social challenges with a strong mentality and to have a good understanding of the risks and impacts of early-age marriage. In its implementation, this strategy involves various sectors, such as the Ministry of Religious Affairs, the Ministry of Social Affairs, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection, BKKBN, the Ministry of Education and Culture, community organizations, universities, as well as regional government organizations (OPD). This cross-sector collaboration aims to create an environment that supports children's development so that they have the knowledge, skills, and awareness to reject the practice of early-age marriage.

DP3A Bengkalis Regency seeks to prevent early marriage by strengthening community and family involvement, providing family counseling and youth information centers, and promoting legal enforcement. These initiatives aim to protect adolescents from risky social environments and reinforce compliance with Law No. 16 of 2019, establishing 19 as the minimum marriage age. Based on the results of interviews with the community, it is known that there are still obstacles in the dissemination of information because socialization activities have not reached all village areas and there are limitations in the number of officers conducting counseling activities in the field. Therefore, broader and more sustainable efforts are needed so that early-age marriage prevention programs can reach all levels of society (Fauzi & Lestari, 2021).

Environment that Supports the Prevention of Child Marriage

According to Stranas PPA (PPN/Bappenas, 2020), one of the main strategies in preventing child marriage is to create a supportive environment by strengthening the roles of parents, families, social or community organizations, schools, and religious educational institutions such as Islamic boarding schools (pesantren). A conducive social environment is very important because children and adolescents are not only influenced by government policies but also by their closest environment in everyday life. Various sectors involved in this strategy include the Ministry of Religious Affairs, the Ministry of Social Affairs, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection, BKKBN, the Ministry of Education and Culture, community organizations, universities, regional government organizations (OPD), and the business sector. Synergy among these sectors is required so that efforts to prevent early-age marriage can be carried out comprehensively and sustainably within society.

Schools also have a strategic role in creating an environment that supports the prevention of early-age marriage because they function not only as educational institutions but also as social protection spaces for children. Based on interviews with the Head of DP3A of Bengkalis Regency, schools can provide understanding regarding reproductive health, the dangers of early pregnancy, and the social impacts of early marriage. Schools are also expected to become mediators between children and parents when there are indications of early marriage. Interviews with community members indicate that education related to early marriage prevention in some schools is still limited, and there are cases where students drop out of school because they are going to marry. Therefore, strengthening the role of schools through counseling guidance, reproductive health education, and cooperation with community health centers (puskesmas) and related institutions is necessary to increase adolescents' awareness about the importance of delaying marriage until a mature age (Wahyudi & Safitri, 2023).

Accessibility and Expansion of Services

According to Stranas PPA (PPN/Bappenas, 2020), the objective of the accessibility and service expansion strategy is to ensure that children obtain comprehensive basic services in order to support child welfare and protection. In its implementation, this strategy involves various sectors such as the Ministry of Religious Affairs, the Ministry of Social Affairs, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection, BKKBN,

the Ministry of Education and Culture, community organizations, universities, regional government organizations (OPD), and the business sector. In Bengkalis Regency, efforts related to accessibility and service expansion in preventing early-age marriage are carried out by the Women's Empowerment and Child Protection Service (DP3A) through various educational activities, counseling programs, and the provision of consultation services for children and families.

Based on interviews with the Division of Fulfillment of Children's Rights and Child Protection, the community can access these services by visiting the DP3A office in Bengkalis Regency directly or by accessing the nearest Family Learning Center (PUSPAGA) service point. Through this service, the community can obtain free consultations regarding parenting patterns, family problems, as well as the impacts of early marriage. In addition, the Division of Quality of Life and Protection of Women and Children also stated that providing information regarding the impacts of early marriage, life skills education, and psychosocial support is an important part of strengthening the child protection network within the community (Utami & Purba, 2023).

Strengthening Regulations and Institutions

According to Stranas PPA (PPN/Bappenas, 2020), strengthening regulations and institutions aims to ensure the implementation and enforcement of regulations related to the prevention of child marriage while also improving institutional capacity and governance. This strategy involves collaboration among various sectors such as the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Supreme Court, the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection, the Ministry of Religious Affairs, the Indonesian National Police, regional government organizations (OPD), community organizations, and universities. In Bengkalis Regency, the Women's Empowerment and Child Protection Service (DP3A) carries out efforts to strengthen regulations through educational programs and coordination with related institutions. Based on interviews with the Head of DP3A of Bengkalis Regency, regulation enforcement is conducted through direct socialization to communities down to the village level in order to increase public understanding regarding the minimum legal marriage age of 19 years and encourage the establishment of Women-Friendly and Child-Caring Villages. In addition, DP3A also coordinates with the Religious Court in the implementation of marriage dispensation procedures in accordance with applicable regulations.

Based on interviews with the Division of Quality of Life and Protection of Women and Children, strengthening regulations is also carried out through optimizing the implementation of the National Strategy for the Prevention of Child Marriage (Stranas PPA), strengthening the role of the Children's Forum, and improving coordination among stakeholders in supervising child marriage cases. Interviews with community members show that some people still do not fully understand the regulations regarding the legal minimum age for marriage, indicating that the dissemination of information still needs to be expanded. Community members also suggested increasing the number of officers and counseling activities so that information regarding early marriage prevention can be more accessible. Through strengthening regulations, institutional capacity, and governance, it is expected that efforts to prevent early-age marriage in Bengkalis Regency can be implemented more effectively and sustainably (Sari & Wijaya, 2022).

Strengthening Stakeholder Coordination

According to Stranas PPA (PPN/Bappenas, 2020), one of the main objectives in preventing child marriage is to increase synergy and convergence among various stakeholders. These efforts involve sectors such as the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection (KPPPA), the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Ministry of Social Affairs, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Religious Affairs, civil society organizations, universities, regional government organizations (OPD), and the business sector. In Bengkalis Regency, the Women's Empowerment and Child Protection Service (DP3A) strengthens stakeholder coordination through collaboration between government institutions, communities, and families. Based on interviews with the Head of DP3A of Bengkalis Regency, one of the efforts carried out is empowering children through reproductive health education and providing understanding regarding the legal impacts of early-age marriage. This education is important because many adolescents still lack awareness about the health risks of pregnancy and childbirth at a young age.

Another effort carried out is providing socialization to parents regarding parenting patterns and the risks caused by child marriage. Family involvement is considered essential because parents play a major role in guiding and supervising children during adolescence (Ahmadi et al., 2026). From the community perspective, there are expectations that socialization activities can be expanded and reach remote village areas so that information regarding the prevention of early-age marriage can be understood more evenly. The

community also considers cooperation between village governments and society important in supporting prevention efforts (Pebriani & Nasyaya, 2023). To increase the convergence of prevention programs, DP3A also collaborates with the Population Control and Family Planning Office, the Education Office, and the Health Office through educational activities in schools, counseling on the health and social impacts of early marriage, and guidance for prospective brides, prospective grooms, and adolescent girls. Development targets across regional government institutions are continuously aligned to ensure integrated, coordinated, and sustainable child marriage prevention programs (Husbuyanti & Mandini, 2023).

CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the discussion, it can be concluded that the role of the Women's Empowerment and Child Protection Office (DP3A) in preventing early marriage in Bengkalis Regency is carried out through various efforts of communication, education, and coordination with various parties. These efforts are manifested through persuasive, educational, and informative approaches in the form of socialization, advocacy, as well as the delivery of Communication, Information, and Education to the community. However, in its implementation, there are still several obstacles, such as limited personnel numbers and technical competencies within the organizational structure, as well as personal factors of the community, such as low education levels, which affect understanding of the impacts of early marriage. In addition, the prevention of early marriage is also influenced by various supporting factors, including the optimization of children's capacity through counseling and education, the creation of a supportive family environment through open communication and counseling services, easy access to consultation services at DP3A and Puspaga, strengthening regulations and institutions through education at the village level, as well as improving coordination among stakeholders in providing reproductive health education and understanding the legal impacts of early marriage in order to protect children's rights and future.

REFERENCES

Aditya, R. I., & Waddington, L. (2021). The Legal Protection Against Child Marriage in Indonesia. *Bertuur*, *9*(2), 126–134.

Ahmadi, S., Nikmatullah, & Hidayati, D. (2026). Family resilience and social transformation in West Nusa Tenggara: Exploring adaptive capacities in changing communities. *Muwazah: Jurnal Kajian Gender*, *18*(1), 134–155. https://doi.org/10.28918/94xaz057

Anwar Mulyaman, M. (2025). Efektivitas Peran DP3A Kota Bekasi dalam Upaya Melindungi Anak dengan Perilaku Berisiko agar Tetap Memperoleh Hak Pendidikan. *Repository UIN Syarif Hidayatullah Jakarta*.

Disparbudpora Bengkalis (2024).

Duby, Z., McClinton Appollis, T., Jonas, K., Maruping, K., Dietrich, J., LoVette, A., Kuo, C., Vanleeuw, L., & Mathews, C. (2021). "As a Young Pregnant Girl… The Challenges You Face": Exploring the Intersection Between Mental Health and Sexual and Reproductive Health Amongst Adolescent Girls and Young Women in South Africa. *AIDS and Behavior*, *25*(2), 344–353. https://doi.org/10.1007/s10461-020-02974-3

Ebetürk, I. (2021). Global di ff usion of laws: The case of minimum age of marriage legislation , 1965-2015. *Journal Of Cultural And Political Sociology*, *8*(3), 294–328.

Fauzi, A., & Lestari, P. (2021). Implementasi Kebijakan Pencegahan Perkawinan Anak: Studi Kasus Dinas Pemberdayaan Perempuan dan Perlindungan Anak. *Jurnal Kebijakan Publik Indonesia*, *3*(1), 44–56.

Fitriani, A., & Mulyadi, D. (2024). Efektivitas Program Pusat Pembelajaran Keluarga (PUSPAGA) DP3A dalam Konseling Pencegahan Pernikahan Anak. *Jurnal Ilmu Kesejahteraan Sosial*, *13*(2), 150–165.

Husbuyanti, E. E.-M., & Mandini, D. D. S. (2023). Strategi Sosialisasi Perda Pencegahan Pernikahan Dini Di Masa Pandemi. *Jurnal CaraNa Prabu*, *7*(1), 81–95.

Janighorban, M., Boroumandfar, Z., Pourkazemi, R., & Mostafavi, F. (2022). Barriers to vulnerable adolescent girls' access to sexual and reproductive health. *BMC Public Health*, *22*(1), 1–16. https://doi.org/10.1186/s12889-022-14687-4

Khalimatunnisa. (2023). Peran Dinas Pemberdayaan Perempuan dan Perlindungan Anak (DP3A) Dalam Menanggulangi Pernikahan Dibawah Umur Perspektif Fiqh Al-Munakahat (Studi Analisis DPPKBP3A di Kabupaten Banyumas). *Repository UIN Saizu*.

Marhamah, Irwanto, Fauzi, Rahmani, S. U., & Bhakti, S. E. (2022). Family communication patterns in gender relations in coastal and mountain communities in Aceh. *Muwazah: Jurnal Kajian Gender*, *14*(2), 139–156. https://doi.org/10.28918/muwazah.v14i2.1085

Maulida, M., Gedeona, H. T., & Rinaldy, R. (2025). Analisis Implementasi Kebijakan Pencegahan Perkawinan Anak Di Bawah Umur di Kabupaten Garut. *Jurnal Studi Pemerintahan Dan Akuntabilitas (JASTAKA)*, *5*(1), 23–40.

Musfiroh, M. R., & Mubarok, A. F. (2024). Administrative pitfalls in gender mainstreaming practices: Learning from 3 districts: Jepara Regency, Pati Regency and Pemalang Regency. *Muwazah: Jurnal Kajian Gender*, *16*(2), 202–218. https://doi.org/10.28918/muwazah.v16i2.8718

Nafhani, A., Maulida, Y., Nur, A., Aulia, F., Dewi, Y., Fadhil, G., Luthfan, F., Mulawarman, U., Timur, K., Tengah, J., Islam, U., Walisongo, N., & Tengah, J. (2026). SIGNIFICANT DECLINE IN CHILD MARRIAGE RATES IN INDONESIA BY 2025: The Central Role Of Guidance For School-Age Youth Following Law No. 16 Of 2019. *Tasyri': Journal of Islamic Law*, *05*(16), 233–244.

Ni'mah, F. J., & Nurani, S. (2022). Child marriage in male-feminist: Contextual Qur'anic interpretation. *Muwazah: Jurnal Kajian Gender*, *14*(1), 103–116. https://doi.org/10.28918/muwazah.v14i1.497

Nurhayati, E., & Setyowati, Y. (2022). Optimalisasi Peran DP3AP2KB dalam Pendampingan Remaja untuk Mencegah Pernikahan Dini di Kabupaten Sleman. *Jurnal Pemberdayaan Masyarakat*, *10*(2), 215–230.

Pebriani, H., & Nasyaya, A. (2023). Collaborative Governance Dalam Upaya Pencegahan Pernikahan Anak Usia Dini Di Kabupaten Ogan Komering Ulu. *Jurnal Pemerintahan Dan Politik*, *8*(2), 137–148.

Pitrianti, L., Novrikasari, & Syakurah, R. (2021). Analisis Kebijakan Pemerintah Daerah dalam Upaya Pencegahan Praktik Pernikahan Dini Masa Pandemi COVID-19. *Jurnal Keperawatan Silampari*, *5*(1), 488–498.

PPN/Bappenas, K. (2020). *Strategi Nasional Pencegahan Perkawinan Anak*. Kementerian Perencanaan Pembangunan Nasional/Badan Perencanaan Pembangunan Nasional (BAPPENAS).

Prasetyo, C. A. (2023). Peran Dp3ap2kb Kabupaten Jepara Dalam Memberikan Rekomendasi Dispensasi Kawin. *Jurnal Hukum, Politik Dan Kekuasaan*, *3*(2), 171–190.

Pratama, R. A., & Kusuma, W. (2023). Strategi Komunikasi Informasi dan Edukasi (KIE) DP3A dalam Menekan Angka Pernikahan Dini di Pedesaan. *Jurnal Komunikasi Pembangunan*, *21*(1), 88–101.

Purwasih, W., Sahnan, A., & Rahmat, B. (2023). Prevention of sexual violence in early childhood based on parents' educational level. *Muwazah: Jurnal Kajian Gender*, *15*(1), 1–20. https://doi.org/10.28918/muwazah.v15i1.1418

Putra, A. (2023). Parental education conditions in rural areas of Bengkulu: Case study on responsive gender, parenting styles, equality behavior, and learning needs. *Muwazah: Jurnal Kajian Gender*, *15*(2), 227–250. https://doi.org/10.28918/muwazah.v15i2.2012

Rahmatullah, A. S., & Chaer, M. T. (2020). Mental resilience education for children with grandparents: Study of three successful grandmothers who care for their grandchildren. *Muwazah: Jurnal Kajian Gender*, *12*(2), 155–180. https://doi.org/10.28918/muwazah.v12i2.8583

Ramadhani, P., & Hidayat, S. (2024). Evaluasi Kinerja Dinas Pemberdayaan Perempuan dan Perlindungan Anak (DP3A) Kota Pekanbaru Dalam Pencegahan Pernikahan Dini. *Jurnal Ilmu Administrasi Publik*, *12*(1), 12–25.

Ririn Aminarsih, & Farid Pribadi. (2024). Peranan Dinas Pemberdayaan Perempuan dan Perlindungan Anak Kabupaten Madiun dalam Menekan Angka Pernikahan Dini. *SOSMANIORA: Jurnal Ilmu Sosial Dan Humaniora*, *3*(3), 278–286. https://doi.org/10.55123/sosmaniora.v3i3.3926

Rofi'ah, S., Haryono, Zainafree, I., & Farida, E. (2025). The Impact of Child Marriage: Literature Review. *Proceedings of International Conference on Health Science, Practice, and Education*, *1*(1), 61–69.

Rohayana, A. D. (2020). Gender discrimination on child marriage in Indonesia: A quantitative research using bootstrap approach. *Muwazah: Jurnal Kajian Gender*, *12*(2), 237–254. https://doi.org/10.28918/muwazah.v12i2.8585

Saepullah, A., Aziz, A., Widayanti, I., Hasbi, M. Z. N., & Muhammad, A. A. (2025). A Contemporary Socio-Legal Evaluation of Indonesia's Post-Reformation Child Marriage Policies. *MILRev: Metro Islamic Law Review*, *4*(2), 1393–1426. https://doi.org/10.32332/milrev.v4i2.10322

Saputra, A., & Rahayu, S. (2024). Peran Dinas Pemberdayaan Perempuan dan Perlindungan Anak (DP3A) dalam Menangani Pernikahan Dini di Kota Tanjungpinang. *Journal of Governance and Social Policy*, *4*(1), 45–58.

Sari, I., & Wijaya, B. (2022). Analisis Faktor Penghambat Kinerja Pemerintah Daerah dalam Sosialisasi UU No. 16 Tahun 2019 tentang Perkawinan. *Jurnal Administrasi Publik Digital*, *4*(3), 210–222.

Sedarmayanti. (2013). *Manajemen Sumber Daya Manusia: Reformasi Birokrasi Dan Manajemen Pegawai Negeri Sipil*. Refika Aditama.

Setiawan, I., Sukristyanto, A., & Ibnu Rochim, A. (2021). The Implementation of Law Number 16 of 2019 a Case Study of Early Marriage Prevention in Hulu Sungai Utara Regency Indonesia. *Journal of Public Policy and Administration*, *5*(3), 117. https://doi.org/10.11648/j.jppa.20210503.16

Setyawan, B., & Rahmawati, A. (2024). Peran dan Upaya Dinas Pemberdayaan Perempuan dalam Menekan Angka Pernikahan Anak melalui Puspaga Kenari di Kota Yogyakarta. *Digital Library UIN Sunan Kalijaga*.

Sofiani, T. (2022). The strategic policy of child marriage prevention on gender-integrated: Strengthening best practice areas toward child marriage-free zones. *Muwazah: Jurnal Kajian Gender*, *14*(2), 229–254. https://doi.org/10.28918/muwazah.v14i2.1090

Syam, N., & Ridwan, M. (2021). The Role of Local Government on the Prevention of Early Marriage in Sidenreng Rappang Regency. *Indonesian Journal of Open Knowledge (IJOK)*, *2*(2), 210–225.

Utami, A. S., & Purba, P. A. (2023). Pencegahan Pernikahan Dini pada Remaja melalui Program Pengabdian Masyarakat. *Jurnal Pengabdian Masyarakat Makarya*, *2*(3), 1082–1087.

Wahyudi, A., & Safitri, A. (2023). Local Government Strategies in Preventing Child Marriage. *JGI: Jurnal Tata Pamong*, *5*(2), 89–102.

Waliddra, S., & Simanjuntak, H. T. R. F. (2023). Strategi Dinas Pemberdayaan Perempuan dan Perlindungan Anak (DP3A) dalam Mencegah Pernikahan Anak Usia Dini di Kota Pekanbaru. *Jurnal Niara*, *16*(1), 148–156.

Yuniar, A. D., Azahra, A. N., Qonitalillah, A., & Anggaunitakiranantika. (2022). Literacy of sexual harassment and abuse toward adolescent protection behavior. *Muwazah: Jurnal Kajian Gender*, *14*(1), 81–102. https://doi.org/10.28918/muwazah.v14i1.495