STRATEGY OF THE INSTITUTE FOR COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT AND EMPOWERMENT IN EFFORTS TO PREVENT CHILD MARRIAGE THROUGH EMPOWERING GRASSROOTS WOMEN IN LINTAU BUO UTARA, INDONESIA

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Abstract

Child marriage rates in Indonesia continue to increase and cause for concern. Data from UNICEF, the World Children's Country, child marriage in Indonesia is ranked 7th in the world and the second highest of all member countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). Besides affecting the human development index (HDI), child marriage also affects the poverty depth index which can threaten the failure of sustainable development goals (SDGs). Child marriages have an impact on low levels of education because children leave school, have limited access to economic opportunities, are vulnerable to violence, mental health and an increased risk of maternal and infant mortality. Several studies conducted by social science experts at several universities in Indonesia state that the factors that cause an increase in child marriage in Indonesia are mainly caused by economic factors and the stereotype that marrying children at a young age can help ease the burden on parents. At present, the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection (Kemen PPPA) together with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) encourage all efforts and cooperation with stakeholders to reduce child marriage rates in Indonesia. One of the Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) that also focus on encouraging child marriage prevention is the Community Empowerment and Assessment Institute (LP2M) in West Sumatra. One of the areas targeted by the LP2M program is North Lintau Buo District through the empowerment of grassroots women. This sub-district is one area that is still high with child marriage rates and lack of access and community development services. The empowerment strategy undertaken by LP2M departs from the Sara Hlupekile Longwe empowerment framework known as the "Longwe Framework". The purpose of this study is to describe the LP2M strategy in preventing child marriage through empowering grassroots women in Lintau Buo Utara sub-district. The method used in this study uses a descriptive qualitative approach through in-depth interviews, observation and document search. The findings of this study are that LP2M has two main strategies to prevent child marriage in Lintau Buo Tanah Datar through a women's reproductive health program that is organizing grassroots women by strengthening the economy and increasing women's capacity and through advocating for reproductive health rights by encouraging solutive regional policies.

Keywords: empowerment, child marriage, poverty and grassroots women

1. INTRODUCTION

Child marriages in addition to affecting the human development index (HDI) also affect the index into poverty which can threaten the failure of sustainable development goals (SDGs). UNICEF said children who get married at an early age tend to leave school, have limited economic opportunities and are more vulnerable to violence and mental health.[1] The Board of Trustees of the International NGO Forum on Indonesian

[1] UNICEF, "Child Marriage" is accessed from https://unicef.in/Whatwedo/30/Child-Marriage, on September 1, 2019 at 09.25 WIB

Development (INFID) and the Management of the Women's Health Foundation (YKP) states that child marriages have an impact on poverty, maternal mortality and also the quality of babies born.[2] Children who marry early also have the potential to drop out of school so that the 12-year compulsory education is not met. In addition, child marriages make sexual violence and domestic violence vulnerable at the same time depriving children of rights which refer to the law on child protection UU No. 23 of 2002.

In Indonesia the number of child marriages is still considered high. Based on data from Unicef, the State of the World's Children in 2016, child marriage in Indonesia was ranked 7th in the world. The Central Statistics Agency (BPS) released the percentage of early marriages in Indonesia increased to 15.66% in 2018 compared to the previous year 2017 which was 14.18%. Based on BPS data, those who are classified in the category of child marriage are those who are married under the age of 16 years. Even from January-August in 2018 the family welfare mobilization team (PKK) recorded 720 cases of child marriage.[3] The increasing number of child marriages in Indonesia is a challenge for the Indonesian government to continue to improve the quality of the human development index (HDI).

Researcher and lecturer at Paramadina University, Suraya said that there are several factors that cause child marriages in Indonesia, including the family economy, family debt imposed on girls who are considered as assets, low education, low income, wrong interpretation of religious rules and understanding family and stereotypes of girls.[4] Another phenomenon that causes high rates of child marriage is the high rate of pregnancy among young women. Ir. Dina Nurdiawati M.Sc, a researcher from the Bogor Agricultural University (IPB), explained the results of her survey on child marriage in Indonesia, also mentioning that the cause of child marriages was also due to many parents who felt that marrying their child was helped and economically helped.[5] This is consistent with what is found by Gadjah Mada University (UGM) social observers Muhadjir M. Darwin, who say marriage at the age of children tends to be used as a solution to overcome the problems of family life and promiscuity without seeing the root of the problem.[6]

Since 2010, the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection (Kemen PPPA) together with The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) began to focus on tackling cases of child marriage in Indonesia by presenting best practices and cooperation with relevant stakeholders. One institution that is also focused on advocating for efforts to prevent child marriages is the Institute for Community Empowerment and Assessment (LP2M) in West Sumatra Province. LP2M through the MAMPU Maju Wanita Indonesia program began to focus on advocating the prevention of child marriages, especially in poor urban and rural women assisted by LP2M.

One of the areas targeted for the prevention of child marriage programs by LP2M is Lintau Buo Utara. i Lintau Buo Utara is one of the areas with a high level of child marriage in Tanah Datar District of West Sumatra. In addition, some areas in Lintau Buo Utara have low levels of community economy. As the Lintau Buo Utara region is still far from access and health and education services in terms of geographical aspects. Efforts made by LP2M to prevent child marriages in Lintau Buo Utara have been started since 2015 through the Women's Reproductive Health Advocacy program. The program targets grassroots women groups both adults and adolescents.

Based on the data and phenomena described, this research will try to look at the strategies carried out by LP2M in an effort to prevent child marriage in North Lintau Buo through the process of empowering grassroots women.

2. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This research is descriptive qualitative in which data collection techniques are carried out through interviews with informants who come from field assistant staff, LP2M directors and assisted communities. Data collection is also done by direct observation and document search. The location of the study was Lintau Buo Utara District, Tanah Datar District, West Sumatra Indonesia.

[2] INFID, "Perkawinan Anak Indonesia" accessed from https://infid.org, on September 1, 2019 at 09.50 WIB
[3] BPS-KPPPA. 2018. Profil Anak Indonesia 2018. Kementerian Pemberdayaan Perempuan dan Perlindungan Anak (KPPPA)
[4] KPPPA, Strategi Percegahan Perkawinan Anak Dirumuskan" accessed from https://www.kemenpppa.go.id, on September 1, 10:25 WIB
[5] "Persoalan di Balik Tingginya Angka Perkawinan Anak Indonesia" accessed from http://www. Cnnindonesia.com/gaya –hidup, on September 1, 2019 at 11:02 WIB
[6] Kemiskinan Picu Perkawinan Dini, accessed from https://ugm.ac.id/id/berita/11329 on September 1, 11:00 WIB

3. LONGWE EMPOWERMENT FRAMEWORK

The framework for women's empowerment by Sara Hlupekile Longwe focuses directly on creating situations /conditioning where issues of inequality, discrimination and subordination are resolved. According to Longwe, empowerment can be seen from five aspects namely welfare, access, concentration / awareness, participation and control. The highest aspect of the five aspects is control and efforts to empower women must meet all of these aspects. In more detail, Longwe outlines points that must be met for the success of women's empowerment.[7] These points are explained as follows:

1. **Welfare**, women need welfare such as clothing, food and clothing first so they can be invited to participate in a development process.

2. **Access**, to be able to participate and be empowered after the level of welfare is reached, women need good access in the form of access to information, knowledge, facilities and other supporting facilities.

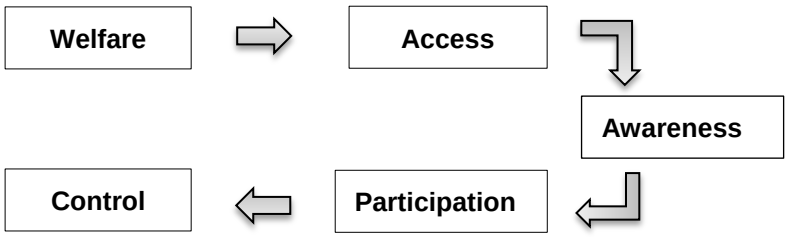
3. **Awareness**, In addition to welfare and access, women need awareness that what they stand for is something that is an issue in the community that needs to be resolved.

4. **Participation,** women will be more easily invited to participate when they are prosperous for basic matters, have access and are aware of what they stand for.

5. **Control,** one of the efforts to ensure the development process is in accordance with the expectations and objectives needs to be a control of the process. This aspect of control can be achieved when aspects of welfare, access, awareness and participation are met.

If seen from the aspects offered by Longwe regarding the empowerment framework for women, it can be understood that these aspects are interrelated and sequential to the end, as explained in the chart below:

Women's Empowerment Framework By Longwe (1995)



The picture explains that the first step that needs to be considered in carrying out the empowerment process is the welfare of the community and the highest level of empowerment is when the community can control the course of the development process.

4. STRATEGY OF LP2M TO PREVENT CHILD MARRIAGE THROUGH EMPOWERING GRASSROOTS

The Community Assessment and Empowerment Institute (LP2M) is one of the Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in West Sumatra Province whose focus is on empowering through research studies, community organizing, critical discussion and advocacy on specific policies for grassroots women's communities. The vision of LP2M itself is "The realization of a prosperous and critical society that is just and gender-equal, democratic, anti-discrimination, socially caring and environmental justice". To realize this vision LP2M has a mission:[8]

1) Fight for access, critical awareness and control of women and marginal communities to all policies and resources in the domestic and public sphere.

2) Build a strong and independent women's and civil society movement as a balancing force on the state and market.

[7] Commission on women and Development. 2007. The Women Empowerment approach. Inc. Boone-Roosens.
[8] LP2M. 2014. Profile of Community Research and Empowerment Association Organizations. LP2M Document

In conducting the empowerment process, LP2M uses the concept of empowerment offered by Sara Hlupekile Longwe or also known as "Longwe Framework". Five aspects of Longwe empowerment namely welfare, access, concentration / awareness, participation and control are implemented by LP2M in stages and even simultaneously in accordance with the conditions of the people being accompanied in the field. The form of activities carried out by LP2M in the empowerment process within the Longwe empowerment framework varies from program to program, which adjusts the concepts and objectives of each program as well as the situation and condition of the community that is the target group of the program.

One of the programs run by LP2M which also adopted the empowerment framework offered by Sara. H Longwe is the Prongram of Women's Reproductive and Sexual Health Rights (HKSR). This program was originally carried out in 2015 in two districts namely Tanah Datar and Kota Padang. Until 2016 this program was later extended to Padang Pariaman Regency. The HKSR program was carried out departing from the results of research conducted by the Able to the Consortium in 2013 on Unwanted Pregnancy (KTD). Research conducted by Permampu in eight provinces on the island of Sumatra, Indonesia found that there are several issues that affect the level of reproductive health of women in the eight study areas, namely the increased maternal mortality rate (MMR). Among the causes of the increased maternal mortality rate (MMR) are due to unsafe abortion and impaired reproductive health due to pregnancy that occurs at a very young age or the age of the child in the age category determined by WHO.

One of the data references that were used by Permampu to support its research conducted in 2013 was data from the 2010 Regional Health Research (RISKESDA). RISKEDA shows that women's reproductive health problems started from the high age of first marriage under 20 years. Data included for all of Indonesia are 4.8% of women married at the age of 10-14 years, 41.9% at the age of 15-19 years, the rest above 20 years. The age of first marriage in the 10-14 year age group tends to be higher in rural areas (6.2%) than in urban areas, and it turns out to be high in communities where income is generally low such as farmers / fishermen / laborers (6.3%), and lowest economic status / quintile 1 (6.0%). The RISKESDA also shows the relationship between marital age and school drop-out before reaching compulsory education Nine years: 9.5% of girls in the 10-14 age group who are no longer in school are married. The findings of the RISKESDA have proven that the number of married women under 20 years is still very large.[9] Chances are most of the women are pregnant under the age of 20 anyway. Meanwhile, according to the BKKBN formula, women under 20 years must not be pregnant, because their pregnancies are at high risk.

In West Sumatra Province, one of the villages with a high number of child marriages is Lintau Buo Subdistrict, Tanah Datar District. Cases of child age marriages that occurred in North Lintau Buo caused children to drop out of school and continued poverty of women. Besides the child's unpreparedness to enter and undergo the process in the household resulting in divorce and neglect of the child from the child marriages earlier. The child's parents assume that marrying off the child will reduce the burden on the family without thinking about the child's future such as education, health and the futile future of the child.

LP2M through the HKSR program empowers grassroots women as an effort to prevent the adverse effects of child marriage. The HKSR program which is run within the empowerment framework offered by Sarah H Longwe is carried out by LP2M through two main activities, namely:

4.1 Organizing and Strengthening the Capacity of Grassroot Women in Lintau Buo Utara

In the process of empowerment, grassroots means that people at the grassroots level both in villages and cities are the basis or basis for a movement. The organization of grassroots women carried out by LP2M is one of the efforts to organize women through women's groups from the village level to the provincial level with various capacity building for women. There are three aspects of the Sara H Longwe empowerment framework that are implemented through grassroots women's organizing activities, namely the welfare aspect, the access aspect and the concentration and awareness aspect. To realize this aspect LP2M then carries out a number of activities in the empowerment process through grassroots women's community organizing which will be explained below:

4.1.1 Strengthening Women's Economy

Through the organizing process, the strengthening of women's economy begins with the initiation of grassroots women's groups. There are three levels of this group of women:

[9] Permampu. 2014. Permampu Consortium Program Design. LP2M.document

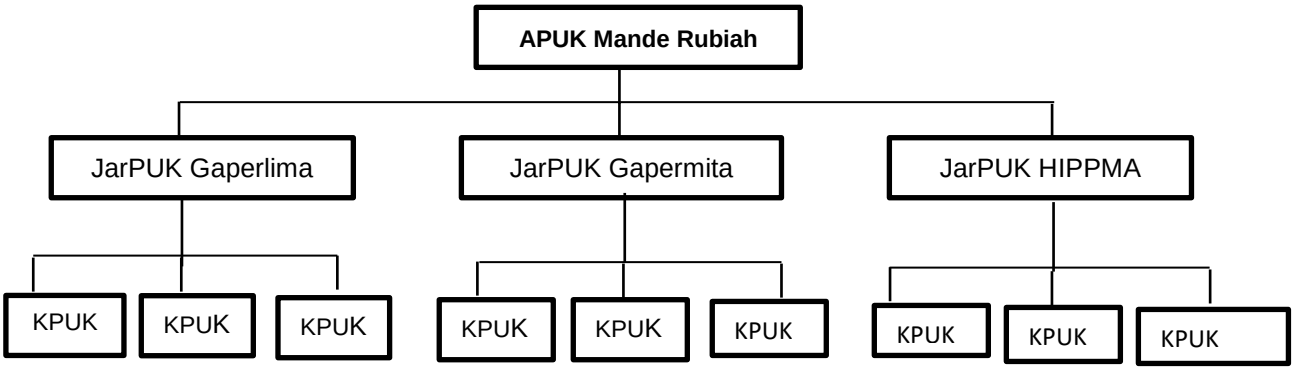
a) KPUK (Small Business Women's Group) which is a group of women at the village level. In North Lintau Buo there are around 9 KPUK with each group having 10-20 members. Each group has a management and cooperative structure known as the Women's Financial Institution (LKP). KPUK compulsory meetings are held once a month in the form of meetings and coordination which are directly accompanied by assisting staff from LP2M. In addition, KPUK can still hold meetings according to the needs of each KPUK.

b) JarPUK (Women's Small Business Network) which is a grassroots women's organization which is a combination of KPUK Desa at the Regency level. Similar to KPUK, JarPUK also has an organizational structure and women's financial institutions (LKP). Usually JarPUK meetings are held once every two months with coordination and routine meetings. This meeting will also be accompanied by LP2M. Specifically for Tanah Datar Regency, it is called JarPUK Gaperlima.

c) APUK (Association of Small Business Women) Mande Rubiah. APUK Mande Rubiah is a combination of JarPUK at the district level or a combination of all KPUK members in West Sumatra Province. Mande Rubiah was taken from the name of one of the female heroes in West Sumatra.

The following picture shows the form of organizing grassroots women's community organizations carried out by LP2M:

The Structure of The Grassroots Women's Organization Assisted LP2M



Lintau Buo Utara is also one of the regions that has the potential and intellectual property for the development of weaving and songket. But only a handful of people who pursue the craft. LP2M then encouraged the women's community to develop this potential through the "Natural Color Weaving Development" program. In addition to the craft of weaving by synthesis coloring, natural coloring is also encouraged in order to produce works that are environmentally friendly and healthy. This program has succeeded in bringing the name of Lintau Buo Utara to the national level and one of the craftsmen participated in the exhibition of natural coloring weaving in Malaysia in 2017. Handicraft weaving through natural coloring weaving is very unique, starting from compounding the color of threads derived from natural plants and then , comb the yarn that has been colored and finally the yarn is ready to be woven into woven and songket.

The process of strengthening women's economy in addition to being in the form of group activities also through various business development training such as weaving training which also works with local governments, development training

4.1.2 Strengthening The Capacity of Local Community Organizer (CO)

Considered capable of being a community mobilizer. this woman we know as the Local Communiti Organizer (CO). This is one of the efforts of LP2M to encourage independence in the assisted community so as not to depend too much on LP2M in the future. With the presence of local COs, women will be able to move and be aware of the condition of their communities, this will also be one of the bridges to fight for the interests of the people in their villages. CO meetings are held once every two months with various activities such as critical discussion, education and leadership training.

4.1.3 Education and Strengthening Community Groups for Young Women (KPM)

Not much different from organizing women, to provide education and awareness about the impact of child age marriages and good reproductive health for adolescents, LP2M also formed a Young Women's Group (KPM) in North Lintau Buo. There are 5 KPM that already exist in North Lintau Buo. KPM meetings are held

once a month and are accompanied by advisory staff from LP2M by conducting critical discussions on women's health issues and other capacity building. KPM also has its own organizational structure. Capacity building on KPM is also done through training at the provincial level in encouraging healthy, productive and contributing young women to the community. Not only in critical meetings, a number of potential young women could also be invited to join the Local CO capacity building activities.

4.1.4 Organizing Grassroots Women In The FKPAR Organization

Different from the previous organization, the Grassroots Women's Community Forum (FKPAR) is an association of all members of the LP2M assistance and assistance from partner NGOs who are members of the same program, especially advocacy for women's health rights. FKPAR is larger in number compared to APUK Mande Rubiah and plays a more prominent role in policy advocacy activities that are pro-women.

4.1.5 Training and Education For Strengthening Women's Capacity

In addition to focusing on training based on local organizations, some training and workshops were also held by LP2M as one of the strategies for capacity building for women, especially in the three areas assisted by the HKSR program. The training and workshops are usually in the form of household financial management training, leadership training, entrepreneurship training, training in adult education methods, journalistic training, reproductive health training and health checks and group finance training.

4.2 Advocating for Women's Health Rights

Women's Health Rights Advocacy carried out by LP2M is by involving potential cadres who are members of the Local CO and FKPAR. Various activities of the advocacy program aim to open up opportunities for women to participate more in development and be able to control the course of the development process. If it is related to the aspect of empowerment framework offered by Sara H. Longwe, advocating for women's health rights is one form of empowerment aspects in the participation section of control. The activities that are part of the Women's Health Rights Advocacy carried out by LP2M together with the assisted communities are:

4.2.1 Critical Discussion with Tanah Datar District Stakeholder Forum

In this activity, the Local CO who was also active in FKPAR was present to attend the discussion on women's health and prevention efforts to prevent child marriage with relevant stakeholders. These stakeholders usually consist of relevant government agencies that deal with efforts to prevent child marriage and protection of children from the district level to the village level and health services.

4.2.2 Critical Discussion with Traditional and Religious Leaders

Critical discussion with traditional and religious leaders is one of the ways to equalize perspectives and find solutions in solving child marital problems in Tanah Datar District. Here LP2M also involves potential assistants in building networks and increasing women's participation and understanding in adat and religious issues, especially related to child marriage efforts. Customary and religious figures are stakeholders who play a major role in decision-making and policy in North Lintau Buo

4.2.3 Hearings with Regional Legislators in Encouraging the Birth of Regional Policies and Regulations in Efforts to Prevent Child Marriage in Lintau Buo Utara.

One of the efforts carried out by LP2M together with local cadre women was the birth of a nagari regulation on the protection of women and children which later included an effort to encourage the prevention of child marriage in North Lintau Buo.

Explanation of the strategies that have been carried out by LP2M in preventing child marriage in North Lintau Buo, if linked to the empowerment framework carried out by LP2M can be explained through the table below:

NO	MAIN PROGRAMS	ACTIVITY	ASPECT OF LONGWE FRAMEWORK
1	**Organizing and Strengthening the Capacity of Grassroot Women in Lintau Buo**	Strengthening women's economy	welfare aspect
		Strengthening the capacity of women community movers or local community organizer (CO)	Access aspect Conscientisation aspects
		Education and strengthening	Access aspect

	Utara	community groups for young women (KPM)	Conscientisation aspects
		Organizing grassroots women In the FKPAR	Access aspect
		Training and education for strengthening women's capacity	Access aspect Conscientisation aspects
2	**Advocating for Women's Health Rights**	Critical discussion with Tanah Datar District Stakeholder Forum	Participation aspect Control aspects Access Aspects
		Critical discussion with traditional and religious leaders	Participation aspect Control aspects
		Hearings with regional legislators in encouraging the birth of regional policies and regulations in efforts to prevent child marriage in Lintau Buo Utara	Participation aspect Control aspects Access Aspects

From the table above we can see the improvement of women's welfare being the main points made by LP2M. In accordance with Longwe's concept of anxieties how we can invite people to think of themselves to be empowered and fight for their health interests while their welfare in terms of food and clothing has not been fulfilled. Whereas for other aspects such as access and awareness can be done together with one activity program. Then the aspect of participation and control becomes the peak aspect where when women have started to prosper they are more easily encouraged to participate and control the course of the development process.

5. CONCLUTION

LP2M as one of the NGOs in West Sumatra is trying to reduce numbers and prevent child marriages in West Sumatarea, one of which is in the District of North Lintau Buo. Using the Longwe empowerment framework there are two main programs that are the focus of LP2M to prevent child marriage, namely the organizing and strengthening of grassroots women's capacity and advocating for women's health rights at the government level, traditional and religious leaders. The two main programs have various forms of activities in the form of training, education, critical discussions and hearings to encourage the birth of policies that fight for women's health.

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