



ISSN 2621- 458X

The Effectiveness of the Implementation of Law Number 16 of 2019 Concerning Amendments to Law Number 1 of 1974 Concerning Marriage in Reducing the Number of Early Child Marriages in Balusu District, Barru Regency

Sri Hardianti Lukman
ITBA Al Gazali Barru
srihardiantilikman@algazali.ac.id
Rahmi Rais
ITBA Al Gazali Barru
rahmirais@algazali.ac.id

ABSTRACT

This study aims to analyze the effect of the implementation of Law Number 16 of 2019 on Marriage on the prevention of child marriage at the Office of Religious Affairs (KUA) in Balusu District, Barru Regency. This research employs a quantitative approach with a sample of 50 respondents. Data were collected using a questionnaire based on a 5-point Likert scale. Data analysis was conducted using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS), including descriptive statistical analysis, validity and reliability tests, and simple linear regression analysis. The results indicate that the implementation of Law Number 16 of 2019 has a positive and significant effect on the prevention of child marriage. The coefficient of determination of 47.2% shows that the implementation of the law contributes substantially to reducing child marriage practices. This study concludes that consistent enforcement of marriage law by the Office of Religious Affairs plays a crucial role in supporting child protection and enhancing public legal awareness.

Keywords: Policy Implementation, Marriage Law, Child Marriage, Office of Religious Affairs

A. INTRODUCTION

Child marriage remains a complex social problem in Indonesia due to its broad impact on children's health, education, and welfare. The practice of child marriage often hinders children's rights to optimal growth and development, particularly in obtaining a proper education and legal protection. Empirical data shows that child marriage contributes to high school dropout rates, reproductive health risks, and intergenerational poverty. Therefore, the state is obliged to take legal and policy measures to prevent this practice. One form of state intervention is through regulatory changes regarding the minimum age for marriage. This policy is expected to significantly reduce the number of child marriages (Mahayogi et al., 2020).

As a manifestation of the state's commitment to protecting children's rights, the Indonesian government enacted Law Number 16 of 2019 concerning Amendments to Law Number 1 of 1974 concerning Marriage. This law raises the minimum age for marriage for men and women to 19 years. This change in age limit is intended to ensure the physical, mental, and social readiness of prospective married couples. Furthermore, this regulation aligns with the principles of child protection as stipulated in the Child Protection Law. With this legal change, it is hoped that the practice of child marriage can be systematically minimized (Andriati et al., 2020).

Although the regulation has been updated, the implementation of Law Number 16 of 2019 at the local level still faces various challenges. Several regions still report a high number of requests for marriage dispensations, which are seen as a legal loophole that allows child marriage to occur. This situation indicates that the legal change has not been fully accompanied by changes in public awareness and compliance. Policy implementation is heavily influenced by social and cultural factors, as well as the level of public legal understanding. Without effective implementation support, legal policies have the potential to remain merely normative. Therefore, empirical evaluation of policy implementation is crucial (Usman, 2021).

Child marriage cannot be separated from the social and cultural context of society. In some regions, early marriage is still seen as a solution to family economic problems or to maintain family honor. These traditional values often conflict with applicable legal provisions. As a result, there is public resistance to policies limiting the age of marriage. This situation demonstrates that a legal approach alone is insufficient without ongoing social education. Therefore, synergy between legal policies and social approaches is key to preventing child marriage (Kamarusdiana et al., 2022).

From a child protection law perspective, child marriage constitutes a violation of children's basic rights. Children who marry at an early age tend to lose their rights to education, health care, and protection from violence. Several studies show that child marriage increases the risk of maternal and infant mortality and worsens women's reproductive health. Furthermore, child marriage also impacts the quality of future human resources. Therefore, preventing child marriage must be viewed as part of a human development strategy. Legal policies play a strategic role in protecting children from this practice (Gunawan & Bahri, 2021).

The level of public legal understanding is a crucial factor in the successful implementation of Law Number 16 of 2019. Low legal literacy results in the public not fully understanding the legal and social consequences of child marriage. This results in low compliance with the minimum age for marriage. Therefore, intensive dissemination of the law is an urgent need. The role of state institutions in providing legal education is crucial. Without adequate understanding, legal policies are difficult to implement effectively (Hidayah & Komariah, 2021).

The Office of Religious Affairs (KUA) plays a strategic role in the implementation of Law Number 16 of 2019. As the institution authorized to provide marriage services and registration,

the KUA is at the forefront of ensuring compliance with the minimum marriage age. The KUA is authorized to conduct administrative verification and reject marriage registrations that do not meet legal requirements. Furthermore, the KUA also plays a role in educating the public regarding marriage regulations. The KUA's success in carrying out this function is crucial for the effectiveness of child marriage prevention at the local level (Mahayogi et al., 2020).

Previous studies have shown that the implementation of marriage age restrictions has yielded varying results in each region. Differences in social conditions, Cultural factors, and institutional capacity influence the effectiveness of these policies. Therefore, empirical research based on quantitative data is needed to measure the extent to which the implementation of the law has an impact on preventing child marriage. A quantitative approach allows for objective and measurable measurements of the relationships between variables. The results of this empirical research are expected to inform the formulation of more effective policies. Therefore, this research has both academic and practical relevance (Simanjorang, 2021).

Based on this background, this study aims to analyze the impact of the implementation of Law Number 16 of 2019 on preventing child marriage at the Religious Affairs Office in Balusu District, Barru Regency. This study uses a quantitative approach to obtain an empirical picture of the policy's effectiveness at the local level. The results are expected to contribute scientifically to the development of empirical legal studies. Furthermore, this research is also expected to serve as evaluation material for the government and stakeholders in child protection efforts. Therefore, this research is relevant for the development of public policy and marriage law in Indonesia.

B. RESEARCH METHOD

This study uses a quantitative approach with an explanatory approach. The aim is to explain the impact of the implementation of Law Number 16 of 2019 on the prevention of early child marriage. The quantitative approach was chosen because it can objectively measure relationships between variables through numerical data and statistical analysis. This study focuses on testing hypotheses formulated based on theory and previous research findings. The data obtained were systematically processed to draw empirical conclusions. This approach allows for the generalization of research results to the population studied. Therefore, the quantitative method was deemed appropriate to address the objectives of this study (Sugiyono, 2019).

The population in this study was all parties directly involved in marriage services at the Religious Affairs Office, Balusu District, Barru Regency, including KUA officials and community service users, with a total population of 100 individuals. The sample size was determined using the Slovin formula to obtain a representative sample. The Slovin formula used is:

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e)^2}$$

With a population size (N) of 100 and an error rate (e) of 10% (0.1), the sample size is as follows:

$$n = \frac{100}{1 + 100(0,1)^2} = \frac{100}{1 + 1} = 50$$

Thus, the sample size for this study was set at 50 respondents. The sampling technique used was purposive sampling, which selects respondents based on specific criteria relevant to the research objectives (Umar, 2014).

The data collection technique was carried out by distributing questionnaires to respondents who had been determined as research samples. The research instrument was compiled based on the implementation variable indicators of Law Number 16 of 2019 Law Number 16 of 2019 concerning Amendments to Law Number 1 of 1974 concerning Marriage and the variable of preventing early child marriage. The questionnaire used a Likert scale of 1–5 to measure the level of respondent agreement with each statement. The Likert scale was used because it is able to describe respondents' attitudes and perceptions quantitatively. Before use, the instrument was tested for validity and reliability to ensure the quality of the measuring tool. Valid and reliable instruments will produce accurate and accountable data (Sekaran & Bougie, 2017).

Data analysis in this study was conducted using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences. The analysis stages included descriptive statistical analysis to describe the characteristics of respondents and research variables, instrument validity and reliability testing, and simple linear regression analysis to test the research hypotheses. Hypothesis testing was conducted using a t-test with a significance level of 0.05. Furthermore, the coefficient of determination was used to determine the contribution of policy implementation variables to the prevention of early child marriage. The use of SPSS helped researchers produce systematic and accurate analyses. This analytical method is commonly used in empirical social and legal research (Ghozali, 2018).

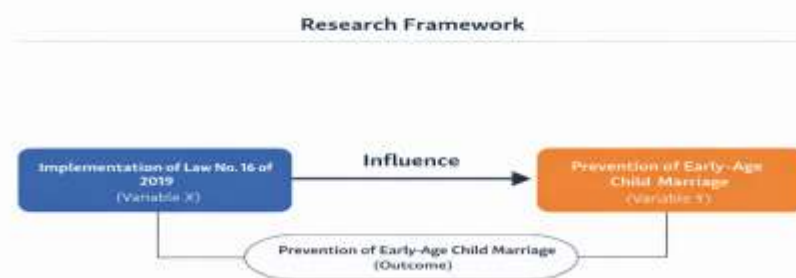


Figure 1. Research Framework diagram

C. RESEARCH RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

➤ Research Results

The descriptive statistical analysis showed that the number of respondents in this study was 50, all of whom were service providers and community users of the Religious Affairs Office in Balusu District, Barru Regency. Based on age data, the majority of respondents were in the productive age range, thus deemed to have a sufficient understanding of marriage policies. In terms of education, the majority of respondents had secondary or higher education, which supported their ability to understand the research questionnaire. This condition indicates that the respondents' characteristics met the requirements for providing objective and relevant answers to the research variables.

The descriptive statistical results for the variable "Implementation of Law Number 16 of 2019" showed an average value (mean) of 4.12 with a standard deviation of 0.48. This value indicates that respondents generally assessed the implementation of the law as being good. Most respondents stated that the Office of Religious Affairs (KUA) had conducted public awareness campaigns regarding the minimum marriage age in accordance with the law. Furthermore, respondents also assessed that marriage administration procedures had been adjusted to the latest regulations. This demonstrates institutional commitment to consistently implementing policies.

For the "Prevention of Early Child Marriage" variable, the descriptive analysis results showed a mean value of 4.05 with a standard deviation of 0.52. This value indicates that the level of child marriage prevention in Balusu District is in the high category. Respondents tended to state that the rejection of early marriage registration was carried out in accordance with legal provisions. Furthermore, efforts to provide education to the community were also considered quite effective. These findings indicate that the implemented policies have had a positive impact on changing community behavior.

The results of the instrument validity test for the "Implementation of Law Number 16 of 2019" variable showed that all statement items had a Corrected Item–Total Correlation value greater than the r-table of 0.279. The calculated r-values ranged from 0.412 to 0.721, indicating that all items were valid. This indicates that each statement in the questionnaire accurately measured aspects of law implementation. Therefore, the instrument, variable X, was suitable for use in further analysis. Good validity reflects the quality of the measurement tool used in this study.

Validity testing of the Early Childhood Marriage Prevention variable instrument also yielded satisfactory results. All statement items had calculated r-values greater than the table r-values at a significance level of 0.05. Corrected Item–Total Correlation values ranged from 0.398 to 0.745, indicating item validity. This demonstrates that the instrument used is capable of

empirically representing the concept of early child marriage prevention. Therefore, the data obtained are reliable for further analysis.

Reliability testing results indicate that the research instrument has a high level of consistency. The Cronbach's Alpha value for the Implementation of Law Number 16 of 2019 variable was 0.821, while the Prevention of Early Childhood Marriage variable was 0.834. Both values are greater than the minimum threshold of 0.70, thus declaring the instrument reliable. This indicates that the questionnaire is capable of producing consistent results when used for repeated measurements. Therefore, the research instrument meets the requirements for statistical reliability.

Based on the results of the normality test using the Kolmogorov–Smirnov test, a significance value of 0.200 was obtained. This value is greater than 0.05, thus concluding that the research data is normally distributed. This condition indicates that the data meets one of the important assumptions in linear regression analysis. A normal data distribution allows researchers to proceed with valid inferential analysis. By meeting this assumption, the results of the hypothesis testing can be interpreted accurately.

The results of the heteroscedasticity test using the Glejser method indicate that the significance value of the independent variable is 0.317, which is greater than 0.05. This finding indicates that there are no symptoms of heteroscedasticity in the regression model. Therefore, the residual variance can be said to be homogeneous at all levels of the independent variable. This condition indicates that the regression model used meets the classical assumptions. Therefore, the regression analysis can be conducted without estimation bias. The results of the simple linear regression analysis indicate that the variable Implementation of Law Number 16 of 2019 has a positive effect on the Prevention of Early Child Marriage.

The coefficient value The regression coefficient (β) was 0.687 with a constant of 12.415. This means that every one-unit increase in law implementation will increase efforts to prevent early child marriage by 0.687 units. This positive relationship indicates that better policy implementation leads to higher levels of child marriage prevention. These results underscore the importance of the KUA's role in implementing the law.

The t-test results show that the calculated t-value of 6.842 is greater than the t-table of 2.010 at a significance level of 0.05. Furthermore, the significance value of 0.000 is less than 0.05. Therefore, the alternative hypothesis (H_1) is accepted and the null hypothesis (H_0) is rejected. This means that the implementation of Law Number 16 of 2019 has a significant impact on the prevention of early child marriage. These findings demonstrate that legal policy plays a significant role in controlling the practice of early marriage.

The coefficient of determination (R^2) obtained was 0.472. This indicates that 47.2% of the variation in child marriage prevention can be explained by the implementation of Law Number 16

of 2019. Meanwhile, the remaining 52.8% is influenced by factors outside the research model, such as social, cultural, and economic conditions, and the role of the family. This R^2 value is considered moderate, but quite strong for socio-legal research. This finding indicates that legal policy is an important factor, although not the sole determinant.

Overall, the SPSS data processing results indicate that the implementation of Law Number 16 of 2019 has been successful and has had a significant impact on preventing child marriage in Balusu District, Barru Regency. The research instrument proved valid and reliable, and the regression model met the required statistical assumptions. The positive and significant relationship between the variables indicates that strict regulation enforcement, socialization, and marriage administration are effective in suppressing the practice of child marriage. Thus, this study provides empirical evidence that legal policy can function effectively as a child protection instrument. These findings are relevant as material for evaluating and strengthening public policy in the field of marriage law.

Table 1. Descriptive Statistics of Research Variables

Variable	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
Implementation of Law No. 16 of 2019	50	3.20	5.00	4.12	0.48
Prevention of Early-Age Child Marriage	50	3.00	5.00	4.05	0.52

Interpretation:

The results of the descriptive statistics indicate that the respondents' average assessment of the implementation of Law Number 16 of 2019 falls into the high category, with a mean value of 4.12. Meanwhile, the variable of early-age child marriage prevention also shows a high average value of 4.05. This indicates that the policy has been implemented effectively and contributes to efforts to prevent child marriage.

Table 2. Validity Test Results for the Implementation of Law No. 16 of 2019 Variable (X)

Item	Corrected Item–Total Correlation	r-table	Remarks
X1	0.512	0.279	Valid
X2	0.621	0.279	Valid
X3	0.487	0.279	Valid
X4	0.721	0.279	Valid
X5	0.412	0.279	Valid

Interpretation:

All statement items for the Implementation of Law Number 16 of 2019 variable have calculated r-values greater than the r-table value (0.279). Therefore, all items are declared valid and are able to measure the construct of policy implementation accurately.

Table 3. Validity Test Results for the Child Marriage Prevention Variable (Y)

Item Corrected Item–Total Correlation r-table Remarks

Item	Corrected Item–Total Correlation	r-table	Remarks
Y1	0.398	0.279	Valid
Y2	0.565	0.279	Valid
Y3	0.632	0.279	Valid
Y4	0.745	0.279	Valid
Y5	0.481	0.279	Valid

Interpretation:

The validity test results show that all items in the early-age child marriage prevention variable meet the validity criteria. This indicates that the instrument is able to empirically represent the concept of child marriage prevention and is appropriate for use in further statistical analysis.

Table 4. Instrument Reliability Test Results

Variable	Cronbach's Alpha	Criteria
Implementation of Law No. 16 of 2019	0.821	Reliable
Prevention of Early-Age Child Marriage	0.834	Reliable

Interpretation:

The Cronbach's Alpha values for both variables are greater than 0.70, indicating that the research instruments are reliable. This shows that the questionnaire has good internal consistency and can be used for repeated measurement of the research variables.

Table 5. Kolmogorov Smirnov Normality Test Results

Model	B	Std. Error	Beta	t	Sig.
Constant	12.415	2.183	—	5.687	0.000
Implementation of Law (X)	0.687	0.100	0.687	6.842	0.000

Interpretation:

The significance value of 0.200 is greater than 0.05, so it can be concluded that the data are normally distributed. With the normality assumption fulfilled, linear regression analysis can be continued.

Table 6. Simple Linear Regression Analysis Results

Model	B	Std. Error	Beta	t	Sig.
Constant	12.415	2.183	—	5.687	0.000
Implementation of Law (X)	0.687	0.100	0.687	6.842	0.000

Interpretation:

The regression coefficient indicates that the implementation of Law Number 16 of 2019 has a positive effect on the prevention of early-age child marriage. The significance value of 0.000 < 0.05 indicates that this effect is statistically significant.

Table 7. Coefficient of Determination (Model Summary)

R	R Square	Adjusted R Square
0.687	0.472	0.461

Interpretation:

The R Square value of 0.472 indicates that 47.2% of the variation in early-age child marriage prevention can be explained by the implementation of Law Number 16 of 2019. The remaining variation is influenced by other factors outside the research model.

➤ Discussion

The results of this study indicate that the implementation of Law Number 16 of 2019 has had a positive and significant impact on preventing early child marriage in Balusu District, Barru Regency. This finding confirms that the change in the minimum age for marriage stipulated in the law is not merely normative but also has a tangible impact on the practice of marriage services at the Office of Religious Affairs. Consistent policy implementation is a crucial factor in controlling the practice of early marriage at the local level. The high average value of the law implementation variable indicates that the Balusu District Office of Religious Affairs (KUA) has optimally carried out its role, particularly in terms of policy socialization, administrative tightening, and rejecting marriage applications that do not meet the age limit. This aligns with public policy implementation theory, which states that policy success is largely determined by the commitment of implementers and clarity of operational procedures at the implementer level.

The variable for preventing early marriage also showed a high score, indicating a change in public attitudes and awareness regarding the importance of the minimum age for marriage. The public is increasingly aware of the social, health, and legal risks of child marriage. This situation demonstrates that legal policy functions not only as a control tool but also as a means of social education for the community. The results of the validity and reliability tests, which demonstrated that all instrument items were valid and reliable, reinforce the strong empirical basis of this study's findings. A good instrument allows researchers to accurately capture respondents' perceptions regarding the implementation of the law and efforts to prevent child marriage. Therefore, the results of this study are methodologically and statistically sound.

Statistically, the regression analysis results show a positive regression coefficient with a high level of significance. This indicates that the better the implementation of Law Number 16 of 2019, the higher the rate of prevention of child marriage. This finding reinforces the view that the law can function effectively as a social engineering instrument if implemented consistently and supported by implementing officials. The coefficient of determination of 47.2% indicates that the implementation of the law has a significant contribution to preventing child marriage, although other influencing factors remain. These factors include local culture, family economic conditions, parental education level, and the role of religious and community leaders. Therefore, legal policies need to be synergized with social and cultural approaches for optimal results.

The findings of this study align with various previous studies, which suggest that raising the minimum age for marriage can reduce the number of child marriages if accompanied by effective supervision and outreach. In the context of Balusu District, the role of the Office of Religious Affairs (KUA) as the frontline provider of marriage services has proven strategic in ensuring compliance with applicable legal provisions. Thus, the implementation of Law Number 16 of 2019 can be said to be effective as a tool for preventing early child marriage. However, the continued success of this policy requires strengthened cross-sectoral coordination, increased public education, and consistent enforcement of regulations to ensure the sustainable achievement of child protection goals.

D. CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

➤ Conclusion

Based on the research results and data analysis using SPSS, it can be concluded that the implementation of Law Number 16 of 2019 concerning Marriage has been running well at the Religious Affairs Office in Balusu District, Barru Regency. This is demonstrated by the high average score of respondents' perceptions of policy implementation, particularly in aspects of socialization, enforcement of the marriage age limit, and orderly administration of marriage services. The research instrument used was also proven valid and reliable, thus ensuring a high level of confidence in the results.

The regression analysis results indicate that the implementation of Law Number 16 of 2019 has a positive and significant impact on preventing child marriage. This finding demonstrates that legal policy can function effectively as an instrument of social control if consistently implemented by implementing officials. The coefficient of determination of 47.2% indicates that the implementation of the law makes a significant contribution to efforts to prevent child marriage, although other factors outside the model also influence it.

Thus, this study confirms the strategic role of the Religious Affairs Office (KUA) as policy implementer at the sub-district level in supporting child protection and fulfilling children's rights by tightening the minimum age for marriage. Effective policy implementation not only reduces the number of child marriages but also increases public legal awareness of the importance of marriages in accordance with statutory provisions.

➤ Recommendations

Based on these conclusions, it is recommended that the Balusu Sub-district Religious Affairs Office continue to intensify its dissemination of Law Number 16 of 2019 to the community, particularly adolescents and parents. Continuous dissemination is expected to strengthen public understanding of the negative impacts of early child marriage. Furthermore, coordination between the KUA, village governments, schools, and religious leaders is needed in comprehensive efforts to prevent child marriage.

For future researchers, it is recommended to add other variables such as cultural factors, family economics, education level, and the role of community leaders to make the research model more comprehensive. Further research could also use mixed methods to delve deeper into the social and cultural aspects that influence the practice of early child marriage. Thus, future research results are expected to provide more holistic policy recommendations.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Andriati, S. L., Sari, M., & Wulandari, W. (2020). Implementasi perubahan batas usia perkawinan menurut UU No. 16 Tahun 2019. *Binamulia Hukum*.
<https://ejournal.hukumkris.id/index.php/binamulia/article/view/306>
- Ghozali, I. (2018). *Aplikasi analisis multivariate dengan program IBM SPSS*. Badan Penerbit Universitas Diponegoro.
<https://repository.undip.ac.id>
- Gunawan, S. O., & Bahri, S. (2021). Impacts of early child marriage from child protection law perspectives. *El-USrah: Jurnal Hukum Keluarga*.
<https://jurnal.ar-raniry.ac.id/index.php/usrah/article/view/20262>

- Hidayah, N. P., & Komariah, K. (2021). Sosialisasi UU No. 16 Tahun 2019 sebagai upaya penyadaran hukum. *Jurnal Pengabdian Hukum Indonesia*, 3(2), 206–218. <https://journal.unnes.ac.id/sju/index.php/JPHI/article/view/44685>
- Kamarusdiana, K., Rasyid, H., Ilahi, M. R., & Shomad, B. A. (2022). Peran tokoh masyarakat dalam pencegahan pernikahan anak. *Harkat: Media Komunikasi Gender*. <https://journal.uinjkt.ac.id/index.php/psga/article/view/41232>
- Mahayogi, N. T. D., Rahayu, L. R., & Sulandari, S. (2020). Tantangan pencegahan perkawinan anak pasca UU No. 16 Tahun 2019. *Kebijakan: Jurnal Ilmu Administrasi*. <https://journal.unpas.ac.id/index.php/kebijakan/article/view/21866>
- Sekaran, U., & Bougie, R. (2017). *Research methods for business: A skill-building approach*. Wiley. <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com>
- Simanjourang, B. D. S. (2021). Kajian hukum pernikahan anak di bawah umur. *Lex Privatum*. <https://ejournal.unsrat.ac.id/index.php/lexprivatum/article/view/38068>
- Sugiyono. (2019). *Metode penelitian kuantitatif, kualitatif, dan R&D*. Alfabeta. <https://oneseach.id>
- Umar, H. (2014). *Metode penelitian untuk skripsi dan tesis bisnis*. Rajawali Pers. <https://opac.perpusnas.go.id>
- Usman, M. M. I. (2021). Batas usia perkawinan dan tantangan implementasi UU No. 16 Tahun 2019. *Zaaken: Journal of Civil and Business Law*. <https://online-journal.unja.ac.id/Zaaken/article/view/41670>