

NYIMAK

Journal of Communication

Nyimak Journal of Communication | Vol. 6 | No. 1 | Pages 1 - 130 | March 2022 | ISSN 2580-3808



Published By:
Department of Communication Science
Faculty of Social and Political Science
Universitas Muhammadiyah Tangerang

Journal Address

Program Studi Ilmu Komunikasi Fakultas Ilmu Sosial dan Ilmu Politik

UNIVERSITAS MUHAMMADIYAH TANGERANG

Jl. Mayjen Sutoyo No. 2 (depan Lap. A. Yani) Kota Tangerang, Banten, Indonesia

Website : <http://jurnal.umt.ac.id/index.php/nyimak>

Email : journalnyimak@fisipumt.ac.id

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Family Communication as a Prevention Effort Early Marriage in Pegantenan Village, Madura

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study is to find out family communication as an effort to prevent early marriage in Pegantenan Village Pamekasan Madura. The study subjects were families in Pegantenan Village with children under the age of 20 who were unmarried. This research was qualitative. Data collection methods used observations and interviews and documentation. Informants were selected using the purposive sampling method. Data analysis used data reduction, data presentation, and data verification (conclusions). Data validity examination technique used triangulation techniques. The results showed that families in Pegantenan Village of Pegantenan District of Pamekasan Regency used 2 (two) models of family communication, namely consensual family communication, which often emphasizes communication, and is protective because decision making is dominated by parents. The conclusion of this study showed that economic, cultural, and lack of awareness about reproduction were the main factors of early marriage in Pegantenan Madura Village.

Keywords: Family communication, early marriage, Pegantenan village, Madura

ABSTRAK

Tujuan penelitian ini adalah untuk mengetahui komunikasi keluarga sebagai upaya pencegahan pernikahan dini di Desa Pegantenan Pamekasan Madura. Subjek penelitian adalah keluarga di Desa Pegantenan dengan anak di bawah usia 20 tahun yang belum menikah. Penelitian ini adalah penelitian kualitatif. Metode pengumpulan data menggunakan observasi dan wawancara serta dokumentasi. Informan dipilih dengan menggunakan metode purposive sampling. Analisis data menggunakan reduksi data, penyajian data, dan verifikasi data (kesimpulan). Teknik pemeriksaan keabsahan data menggunakan teknik triangulasi. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa keluarga di Desa Pegantenan Kecamatan Pegantenan Kabupaten Pamekasan menggunakan 2 (dua) model komunikasi keluarga, yaitu komunikasi keluarga konsensual, yang menekankan seringnya terjalin komunikasi, dan protektif karena pengambilan keputusan didominasi oleh orang tua. Simpulan dari penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa factor ekonomi, budaya, dan kurangnya kesadaran tentang reproduksi menjadi factor utama terjadinya pernikahan dini di Desa Pegantenan Madura.

Kata Kunci: Komunikasi keluarga, pernikahan dini, Desa Pegantenan; Madura

INTRODUCTION

Based on the 2007 Indonesian Population Data Survey (IDHS) in several regions, it was found that a third of the marriages recorded were carried out by couples under the age of 16 years. The number of cases of early marriage in Indonesia reaches 50 million people with an average marriage age of 19.1 years. In East Java, South Kalimantan, Jambi, and West Java,

Citation : Suryandari, N., & Holifah, I. N. (2022). Family Communication as a Prevention Effort Early Marriage in Pegantenan Village, Madura. *Nyimak Journal of Communication*, 6(1), 41–54.

the incidence of early marriage was 39.4%, 35.5%, 30.6%, and 36%, respectively. Even in some villages, marriage is often done as soon as a girl gets her first period (Fadlyana & Larasaty, 2016). According to research conducted by Khairinia (Khairina, 2013) In 2012, the number of married couples on Madura Island was 39,207 couples from various districts, namely Bangkalan Regency with 9,625 couples, Sampang Regency with 10,200 couples, Pamekasan Regency with 8,727 couples, and Sumenep Regency with 10,655 couples. Couples who had early marriages in Madura amounted to 2,707 couples in each regency. Bangkalan Regency with 502 couples covering 18 sub-districts, Sampang Regency with 725 couples covering 14 sub-districts, Pamekasan Regency with 420 couples covering 13 sub-districts, and Sumenep Regency with 1,060 couples covering 27 sub-districts. This means that many marriages that occur in Madura are immature, both psychologically and biologically. 2,707 couples are married regardless of their psychological and biological readiness, especially the women.

In 2018 in Pamekasan, the number of early marriages was still relatively high. Musyaffak (Head of the National Population and Family Planning Agency) said the number of early marriages in Bumi Gerbang Salam was very high in 2018. He admitted, the rate of early marriage in Madura reached 60% and specifically in Pamekasan reached 30%. All of them come from rural residents with low education, usually still in the early stage of senior high school (Pai, 2019). This is a very frightening specter for the government because the high rate of early marriage is one of the causes of Indonesia's backwardness in terms of education. In addition to the world of education, it will also greatly affect the health aspect. The high number of early marriages also shows that agencies engaged in the health sector have not been able to optimally campaign for the dangers of early marriage.

Pegantenan Village is one of the villages in Pegantenan District, Pamekasan Regency where many people still have early marriages. According to Fujiono, (Fujiyono, 2019) Head of the People's Welfare Section of Pegantenan Village, almost 50% of teenagers who marry at a young age on average get married at the age of 18. At that age, women's reproductive health has not yet reached perfect maturity, so the impact of early marriage is not only a social impact but also involves women's reproductive health. The factors of early marriage in Pegantenan Village also vary, ranging from matchmaking cases to cases of promiscuity in the village.

The head of the Pegantenan Regency KUA (Abdullah, 2019) stated that the factors causing early marriage were very complex. Starting from cultural factors, economic factors, educational factors, and certain case factors. The cultural factors, parents have a mindset

that at a certain age their children must get married, this is because parents are worried that their children will not get a mate. The educational factors, in general, these teenagers graduated from junior high school and did not continue their education anymore, this condition greatly influenced teenagers' thinking about the concept of marriage. Because the level of education is low, the level of thinking is also low. Therefore lack of knowledge about the impact that will be caused by early marriage. The economic factors, this factor is one of the triggers for early marriage in Pegantenan Village. The lack of parents' economy makes parents choose to marry off their children at a young age because they want to reduce the family's economic burden. Certain case factors, such as Unwanted Pregnancy (KTD), which of course forced parents to marry off their children at a young age. To suppress the rise of cases of early marriage, various parties continue to make efforts in the form of socialization to teenagers in various schools considering the dangers that will arise from early marriage are very complex and very diverse.

Several studies discuss early marriage, including those conducted by Eddy Fadlyana, Shinta Larasty regarding early marriage and its problems (Fadlyana & Larasaty, 2016). This study focuses more on the problems caused by early marriage in terms of reproductive health. In this study, it was explained that pregnancy at the age of less than 17 years increased the risk of medical complications, both for the mother and for the child. Pregnancy in young mothers is correlated with high maternal mortality and morbidity. Data shows that girls aged 10-14 years have a five times risk of dying during pregnancy or childbirth compared to the age group 20-24 years. Meanwhile, this risk doubled in the 15-19 year age group (UNPFA., 2005; USAID., 2006; WHO., 2007). Based on UNPFA data in 2003, 15%-30% of deliveries at an early age are accompanied by chronic complications, namely *obstetric fistula*. *Fistula* is a condition of damage to the female organs that results in leakage of urine or feces into the vagina. Women younger than 20 years of age are particularly susceptible to *obstetric fistula*. *Obstetric fistula* can also occur due to sexual intercourse at an early age. Further research on early marriage was carried out by Yusuf Hanafi with the title controlling early marriage (child marriage) through the development of a legal awareness education module. This study focuses more on aspects of legal awareness about early marriage in the Madurese subcultural community in the horseshoe area (Hanafi, 2015). According to research recommendations, the provision and quality of candidate education must continue to be carried out synergistically with various parties to increase public confidence in rural areas. This is expected to delay minors from marrying early and prioritizing education. According to UNICEF data, girls with adequate education are almost 6 times less likely to marry early than girls with basic or uneducated education (UNICEF, 2005).

Adolescence is a developmental transition period between childhood and adulthood that generally begins at the age of 12 or 13 years and ends in the late teens or early twenties. (Lubis, 2016). At this time, female reproduction has not yet reached perfect maturity. Reproductive health itself has the meaning, of a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being in all matters relating to the reproductive system, function, and process. (Nelwan, 2019). Maintaining women's reproductive health is very important, one of which is not getting married at a young age. More than double the risk of death for women who marry in their 20s (Lubis, 2016). Therefore, socialization about the dangers of early marriage must still be done to avoid the dangers that will arise from early marriage. In this case, the role of the family occupies the highest priority scale to prevent early marriage. Because the family will be the main character in terms of educating children.

The most intimate and earliest communication and human relationships are found in the family, therefore the family is the primary environment for each of its members. Galvin and Brommel in Budyatna (Budyatna, Muhammad; Ganiem, 2012) a family is a group of people who have close relationships, who develop a sense of belonging and group identity, complete with bonds of loyalty and emotion, and experience history and look to the future. (Budyatna, Muhammad; Ganiem, 2012). To form a strong character and a commendable soul in children, a harmonious family atmosphere is needed. Family relationships will be very harmonious if communication goes smoothly, and there is two-way communication between children and parents. The formation of the child's character and soul that is dreamed of can be achieved if parents can build good communication with their children. The character of children is different and very diverse, some children are active, some are quiet, some are even rude and tend to refuse, ignoring the words of their parents. The shape of the character is closely related to the communication patterns that exist in the family. Communication is a way for parents to shape the character of their children. Communication in the family must always be developed so that the members in it feel a deep bond and need each other.

According to Rae Sedwig, family communication is an organization that uses words, gestures, voice intonation, actions to create an image of hope, express feelings, and share understanding (Sumakul, 2015). Communication in the family can be said to be effective if there is openness from fellow members, a high sense of empathy, an attitude of mutual support in every decision making, a positive attitude given between family members, and equality. Today there are many problems in the family due to the lack of effective communication from various elements in the family. Parents have a very important role in maintaining family communication, especially in terms of educating children.

In Pegantenan Village, which is still dominated by early marriage actors, of course, more or less will build a perspective that requires residents to get married immediately. Knowledge about the impact that will be caused by early marriage which is very diverse makes parents who prioritize education must use appropriate communication to persuade their children to choose to improve the quality of their education rather than marry at a young age. In persuading children, communication within the family must be maintained, using various approaches and communication methods. The ability of parents to communicate and persuade affects children's interest in following what their parents say. Interaction or communication that exists between parents and children is a form of interpersonal communication that allows reciprocity. The problem in this study is how the role of family communication as an effort to prevent early marriage in Pegantenan Village, Pamekasan, Madura.

The family is the first and foremost environment because the family environment is the first environment that children know before getting to know the school and community environment. According to Soekanto (Soekanto, 1990), Family is the smallest social group of society formed by marriage and consists of a husband (father) wife (mother), and children. While the definition of family according to Seligman (Mulyana, 2009) is as a network of people who share their lives in the long term, who are bound by marriage, blood, or commitment, legal or not, who consider themselves as family, and who share future expectations regarding related relationships. The family does not only function as a successor to descendants but has some important functions, including religious functions, socio-cultural functions, loving functions, protecting and creating a sense of security and warmth, reproductive functions, socialization or education functions, economic functions, and environmental development functions (Gunarsa, 2000).

Family communication is an organization that uses words, gestures, intonation, voice actions to create images of hope, express feelings, and share understanding. A family is a network of people who share their long-term lives bound by marriage, blood, or commitment and share future hopes regarding related relationships (Galvin & Brommel, 2000). In another sense, family communication is the delivery of communication messages in the family as a communication process launched between fathers, mothers, and children, such as; children's future, children's work, children's education, and household expenses (Suleman, 1992). Family communication has a very high level of dependence and is at the same time very complex (Ruben, 2019).

RESEARCH METHOD

This type of research is descriptive qualitative. A qualitative method is a type of research whose findings are not obtained through statistical procedures or other forms of calculation and aims to reveal the symptoms in a holistic-contextual way through collecting data from natural settings by utilizing the researcher himself as a key instrument (Sugiarto, 2017). This study uses a qualitative design that aims to explain the phenomenon of data collection in detail (Creswell, 2007). The approach in this research is descriptive inductive qualitative thinking, which is sourced from facts and data in the field which are analyzed and studied with theoretical approaches and thoughts to form new concepts (Lawrence, 2007). Descriptive research examines problems in society, procedures in society, and certain situations in a phenomenon. This is intended to provide a complete picture and view of the subject and object of research (Lawrence, 2007). Qualitative research aims to interpret a social phenomenon. Data mining is done through observation, interviews, and documentation. Observation is a deliberate and systematic study of social phenomena by observing and recording (Kuncoro & Sudarman, 2018). This study used an open interview method. An open interview is an interview in which the use of questions, words, and sentences and the method of presentation is the same for each respondent (Moleong, 2016). Written documents and archives are sources of data that often have an important position in qualitative research, especially if the research objective refers to the background or various events that occurred in the past that are closely related to the conditions or events being studied at this time (Sutopo, 2002). Research data was obtained through observation, structured interviews, and documentation. Analysis of research data was carried out with procedures and processing techniques as follows: (1) Implementation of sorting and determination of data classification; (2) Execution of data editing and coding. Coding is the coding of data to shape the performance of data analysis; (3) Implementation of data confirmation for data that requires verification and deepening, and finally (4) Implementation of data analysis based on the structure or construction of the discussion of research results.

DISCUSSION

Pegantenan Village is 15 km north of Pamekasan City and 140 km from Surabaya City. This village consists of 4 hamlets, namely Dusun Selatan, Dusun Utara, Dusun Timur, and Dusun Tengah. Pegantenan Village is a barren and dry area with people who are known to be religious and prioritize religious norms. The people of Pegantenan Village still follow the traditions or habits carried out by the previous community. Marriage is very important for most people, so it is not surprising that many marriages occur at a young age. Many early

marriages occur in Pegantenan Village, but of the many marriages that occur, only a few people marry through the KUA (Office of Religious Affairs).

Early Marriage and Various Causes

Based on data in the field, several reasons for early marriage include economic factors, worries that their children will not marry, and lack of understanding of reproductive health. The facts about child marriage at an early age in rural and remote areas are strongly influenced by economic problems. This is not surprising, because pockets of poverty in Indonesia have high cases of early marriage. Families with low economic levels marry off their children at an early age to reduce the financial burden. In the view of parents, this marriage is expected to improve the welfare of children, even though in reality they are still in poverty (Hanafi, 2015). In addition to economic factors, cultural factors also play a major role in early marriage. According to Mardhatillah (Mardhatillah, 2014) as soon as a girl grows up, her parents or even her extended family will start to feel anxious if there is no family or certain person from the prospective male partner who proposes directly or simply asks where the girl is. This is also stated by Birri (Birri, 2009) in his research which states that a girl's worries will become an old maid and *ta' paju lake* (no man proposes or wants to marry) arguably the main factor in the high rate of early marriage for Madurese women. In Birri's research (Birri, 2009) it is also explained that matchmaking and/or engagement of Madurese women does not only start when the girl enters adolescence but from childhood even while still in the womb, although in general matchmaking is usually held after the girl experiences first month (menstruation). The understanding to get married immediately is ingrained in the residents of Pegantenan Village, from children who have just graduated from elementary school to children who have just finished high school. This proves that the people in Pegantenan Village still have very little knowledge about reproductive health.

Family Communication and Early Marriage Messages

The family is the main group that has an impact on the characteristics of the communication that occurs in it. According to Charles Horton Cooley (Cooley & Schubert, 1998), the characteristics of the primary group are characterized by the quality of deep and widespread communication, so that they can penetrate our hidden and deep personalities. Primary group communication is also able to reveal the elements of "backstage". In our family, we express things that are personal by using a variety of verbal and nonverbal symbols. The relationship with the family as a primary group is unique and cannot be replaced. In

communication with family, focus more on relationships than content. In family communication in Pegantenan Village, the closeness between family members is prioritized, then followed by the content of the message. This can be seen from the closeness between parents and their children, making it easier to convey messages about early marriage. Messages about early marriage can be in the form of verbal messages by prioritizing education.

“In fact, my parents strongly pushed me to excel in class, so I was often given messages to stay away from early marriage. They understand very well the condition of children who marry at an early age, from the economy to immature thinking. So early marriage is really scary for them” (Interview with Achmad Rivaldi 16 February 2020)

Based on the results of the interview, it is known that parents in Pegantenan Village are starting to raise awareness to prioritize education. All families who became informants in this study are very aware of the importance of education so that children have a lot of knowledge needed in life. Not only the parents, but the children from the family also realized that early marriage was not the right choice for them. On the other hand, messages from parents regarding the prevention of early marriage were responded positively by children. Early marriage in Pegantenan Village is commonplace, considering that culturally marriage is part of family responsibilities, not individual desires, so the family plays an important role in determining a marriage compared to the wishes of children.

“She always said yes if she was told not to get married first, she didn’t want to get married young” (Interview with Mrs. Sri Kuryani February 16, 2020)

“I want, if possible, I can be an example for them (village residents who still marry off their children at a young age)” (Interview with Ilmania Syafitri February 16, 2020)

From the responses above, it is known that the message conveyed by parents about early marriage can be well received by children. The existence of harmony of thought makes this message easy to convey and easily accepted by children. All children from the three informant’s families view early marriage as something to be avoided. They have one understanding with their parents not to marry at a young age. The teachings of each parent from the three families bore fruit as one of the efforts to prevent early marriage. Children even choose to make education a priority in life.

Father as a Central Figure and Role Model in The Family

The father acts as a communicator in a family in preventing early marriage, and the head of the household holds the highest authority in the family. In the informant's family in Pegantenan Village, all of them chose to avoid early marriage. To prevent it, a father has absolute power in his family to direct the child to be what he wants. Various ways to avoid early marriage are carried out by every father in the family. There is a father who's very authoritarian in his family so he could educate his family according to what he wished. Moreover, it is done for the good of every family member. As stated by Mr. Rusman as follows:

“.....I want my son to avoid early marriage. What I say must be done for the good of my child. If he wants to get married right away, go ahead, but I want no part of it” (Interview with Mr. Rusman on February 16, 2020)

As the central figure and the main “role model” in the family, Mr. Rusman has his own way of avoiding his son from cases of early marriage. Mr. Rusman is very authoritarian forbidding his son to stay away from marriage at an early age. This is done for the good of every family member, especially their children. This method is considered very appropriate by Mr. Rusman in educating his children. Mr. Buhari's family also experienced the same thing. For the same reason, Mr. Buhari also wants his son to be better than himself. This fact is revealed from the following interview results:

“I told my son, don't play around, education is more important. I threatened that if he got married at a young age, I would not interfere in the economy anymore. It's not just the economy, in fact, I threaten not to interfere if there is a problem” (Interview with Mr. Buhari 16 February 2020)

The authoritarian attitude in determining a decision is taken by the two heads of the family because if not in this way, the child will underestimate the words of his parents. So being authoritarian is their main choice to educate their children to be better. As the main communicator in the family, the two heads of the household must have thought carefully about what is best for their children. Becoming a bride at a young age should be avoided. Both heads of families are well aware of the impact of cases of early marriage, so they both choose to avoid their children from the case. Unlike the previous two parents, Mr. Sufyan as the head of the family chose to use a more subtle way to direct and educate his children, such as the following:

“...We talked and he had to listen. Marriage is no joke. In the future, everything will be borne by my son and his partner, so he has to be careful. I told him all my experiences when I first got married. What is called bickering, has become a subscriber every day. Moreover, economic problems, you must understand the economics of people who get married at an early age. That’s why I asked my son not to get married first” (Interview with Mr. Sufyan February 16, 2020).

This family does not look as authoritarian as the previous two families. Educating and directing children is done by Mr. Sufyan with a more subtle approach and way. The knowledge about early marriage was first conveyed by Mr. Sufyan. Mr. Sufyan is well aware that as a parent, you must be the first source of knowledge for your children. In this family, all kinds of decisions are taken by deliberation, except for marriage matters which are absolutely in the hands of the parents. In this case, Mr. Sufyan must be more strict with his children, although not as strict as the previous two families.

Prioritize Family Relationship in Family Interactions

In a family, both parents establish an emotional relationship, in which there are elements of volunteerism and sacrifice from both partners to maintain a relationship. In maintaining a relationship, husband and wife complement each other in the family. There is a commitment in the relationship to keep it going. Regarding commitment in a relationship, each parent from the three families committed not to marry off their children at an early age. Every couple from three families does not want their children to marry at an early age. There is the same view of every couple about early marriage. So that there is mutual support between the two partners to be able to realize what they want. This is what Mrs. Mefi as Mr. Sufyan’s wife did. Communicators in the message of early marriage are carried out by both parties. Mrs. Mefi also plays a role in educating children and encouraging children to avoid marriage at an early age. Both are committed to trying to prevent their child from getting married early. It’s just that both parents have different ways of dealing with it.

Besides Mr. Sufyan’s family, Mr. Buhari’s family also has the same commitment between both parents in the message about early marriage. Mrs. Muflihah also often advised her children not to choose to marry at a young age. The method used by Mrs. Muflihah, as happened to Mr. Sufyan’s family, is more subtle than the method used by the father. Because the level of closeness with the mother is closer than with the father, information or messages are more easily received if conveyed by a mother. While the father is more authoritarian in

his family. so like it or not, accepted or not, the message from the father must always be accepted and implemented. The same thing happened to Mr. Rusman's family. Mrs. Sri Kuryani, Rusman's wife, is also committed to keeping her children away from early marriage. In line with her husband's thoughts, she also often advises her child not to follow the habits that occur in the surrounding environment, this is done by Mrs. Sri Kuryani so that her child can have a future that is much better than himself. However, Mrs. Sri Kuryani chose a more subtle way than her husband.

“My husband and I place great emphasis on education, although last year my son didn't pass the college entrance test, we forced him to take the test again this year because we didn't want our child to rush into marriage. I told him about my marriage experience, back then it was like this, I even told him about my first night, so that my child doesn't have the intention of getting married early. But my way of reminding the child is different from that of my husband. I prefer to use the subtle way. Because he also happens to be closer to me than my husband.” (Interview with Mrs. Sri Kuryani February 16, 2020)

There are two ways that families use in conveying messages about early marriage, namely authoritarian and deliberation. Mr. Sufyan's family has a high level of conversation and conformity. Every time they make a decision, this family chooses to hold a deliberation first. However, the marriage decision is still taken by the head of the family. Mr. Sufyan as the head of the family has the authority for every member of his family to follow the decisions he gives, but this decision takes into account the results of deliberation with other family members. Mr. Sufyan's family feels that every member of the family is very close and there is frequent communication within his family. All family members feel the need and depend on each other. The intensity of communication in this family is very frequent compared to the other 2 families. This is evidenced by the statement from Mr. Sufyan:

“We in the family all depend on each other” (Interview with Mr. Sufyan on February 16, 2020)

Mr. Sufyan's statement is proof that the level of intimacy is indeed very high and the intensity of communication between family members is indeed frequent. Between family members are also very open if there are problems they face. Both parents in Mr. Sufyan's family are ready to be a place for other family members to share their hearts, especially for their children.

“Very close, especially with my child. We often talk about problems at school. All of his friends who are good and who are not good, he told everything” (Interview with Mrs. Mefi on February 16, 2020)

In Mr. Sufyan’s family, he often holds deliberations with all family members. but in the end, the highest decision rested with Mr. Sufyan as the family leader without ignoring the results of his deliberation. He then explained to other family members in an effort to bridge the gap so that they understand why their parents chose this decision. However, in determining a decision, Mr. Buhari as the highest leader in his family has authoritarian authority to determine a decision, including regarding marriage.

“My principle is that children must always obey their parents. Because I want the best for my child. Whatever I decide is for the good of the child” (Interview with Mr. Buhari on February 16, 2020)

This statement proves that Mr. Buhari as the head of the family is an authoritarian person in making decisions. In a family that adheres to this authoritarian pattern, parents don’t feel the need to spend a lot of time explaining everything. Parental power is very high and tends to force children to follow what they want. The same thing happened to Mr. Rusman’s family. In Mr. Rusman’s family, the level of conversation is very low, and the level of conformity is very high. Not much different from Mr. Buhari’s family. Communication between family members in Mr. Rusman’s family is rare. Apart from infrequent communication, family members do not feel open to each other, especially for personal matters.

Based on its characteristics, two patterns of family communication occur in families in Pegantenan Village, namely consensual and authoritarian communication patterns. Consensual family communication patterns show that communication often occurs within the family, in determining a decision, through deliberation first. However, the highest decision remains in the hands of the father as the head of the family, but it does not rule out the result of deliberation. Next is the pattern of authoritarian family communication, which is similar to the pattern of protective communication. Parents are very authoritarian in determining their decisions.

CONCLUSION

In Pegantenan Village, there are three factors in the occurrence of early marriage, namely economic factors, culture, and lack of awareness about reproductive health. Although in general, the number of early marriages in Madura is high, there are people in Pegantenan Village, Pamekasan, Madura who prevent the early marriage by maximizing family communication. In this family, the father acts as the main communicator in the family to prevent early marriage, because the father acts as a role model in the family. Families in Pegantenan Village, Pegantenan District, Pamekasan Regency use 2 (two) models of family communication, the first is family communication with consensual patterns, which emphasizes frequent communication and deliberation to determine a decision. The other is family communication with a protective pattern.

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