


The Influence of Parenting Styles on Sexual Behavior and Early Marriage Incidence in Gedog Wetan Village

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Article Info	ABSTRACT
Keywords: Early Marriage Incidents, Parenting Patterns, Sexual Behavior	There are various parenting patterns carried out by parents. This study aims to identify the Relationship between Parenting Patterns and Sexual Behavior and Early Marriage Incidents in Gedog Wetan Village. This study design is cross-sectional with a sample of 38 respondents in Gedog Wetan, Turen District, Malang Regency with a Purposive sampling technique according to the inclusion criteria. The results of the analysis using Chi Square Analysis using a significance level of $\alpha = 5\%$. The results of the analysis obtained the results of $\rho < 0.05$ (0.000) on sexual behavior and (0.014) on the incidence of early marriage, this shows a significant relationship between Parenting Patterns on Sexual Behavior and Early Marriage Incidents in Gedog Wetan Village. The conclusion is that parents must provide good parenting in a democratic way so that children are better able to understand the impact of sexual behavior and the dangers of early marriage.
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INTRODUCTION

Every individual undergoes development, resulting in changes that occur from conception and continue throughout the life span. During childhood, individuals frequently interact with parents, peers, and teachers. However, in adolescence, individuals tend to form closer and more intimate relationships with their peers, and this phase may involve the experience of dating for the first time. This period often becomes a phase of sexual exploration and increases the likelihood of engaging in sexual activity during adolescence (Jannah & Cahyono, 2021). Premarital sexual relations among adolescents can lead to consequences such as married by accident (MBA), thereby contributing to early marriage (Ariani et al., 2021).

According to data from the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in 2023, there were 25.53 million women in Indonesia who married before the age of 18. Based on this data, Indonesia ranks fourth globally in terms of early marriage prevalence, following India, Bangladesh, and China (Moerdijat, 2025). Between 2018–2022, the child marriage rate in East Java remained within the range of 18%–21%. Data from the Malang Religious Court recorded 1,393 marriage dispensation cases in 2022. In 2023, the Religious Court reported that 1,009 underage individuals applied for marriage dispensation, and 936 of these were approved by the court (Imron Hakiki, 2023).

In Malang Regency in 2022, 6.26% of first marriages occurred under the age of 17. Based on an interview conducted on April 20, 2025, with the modin (marriage registrar) of Gedog Wetan Village, it was found that 18 adolescents were recorded as marrying between February and April 2025, both legally and unofficially (siri marriages). Most early marriages occurred right after finishing school, primarily due to premarital pregnancy. Moreover, 12 of these adolescents reportedly began dating during junior or senior high school and decided to marry after graduation, believing they were capable of supporting a household. Another interview on April 21, 2025, with a couple aged 18 (female) and 19 (male), revealed they had been dating since high school and chose to marry because the male partner had begun working at a private institution. They admitted to holding hands and kissing while dating. Another couple, interviewed on April 7, 2025, aged 20 (male) and 18 (female) at the time of marriage, stated they had been in a relationship since junior high and were accustomed to physical affection. An interview with the female partner's parents confirmed that their daughter began dating a classmate in junior high and married him after graduation. The parents approved of the marriage to prevent potential social issues.

Early marriage is increasingly common in today's technologically advanced era, where many youths act impulsively without critical thinking or consideration for long-term consequences (Rawi et al., 2025). Underage marriage is a complex issue influenced by various interconnected factors. Deep-rooted traditions and social norms often justify this practice. Parental pressure whether for economic, social, or personal beliefs can also push adolescents into early marriage. Economic hardship is another driving force, with marriage seen as a way to ease the family's burden. Social factors such as peer influence, lack of sexual education, and stigma toward pregnant adolescents outside of marriage further aggravate the situation (Lushinta, Patty, Anggraini, & Putri, 2024).

Parenting patterns play a critical role in shaping adolescent behavior and attitudes toward sexuality. Numerous studies have found that positive parenting such as democratic parenting can reduce the risk of premarital sexual behavior. In contrast, authoritarian or permissive parenting styles may increase such risks. Democratic parenting is characterized by open communication, clear boundaries, and emotional support. Conversely, authoritarian parenting relies on strict control and poor communication, while permissive parenting lacks supervision and discipline (Mediasari et al., 2025). According to Gunawan et al. (2023), one of the reasons adolescents marry young is flawed parenting either excessive control from parents or excessive freedom due to lack of boundaries. Parenting is the foundational role in a child's education, development, and moral growth. Raising and educating children always involves numerous challenges and responsibilities. Based on the background above, the researcher is interested in conducting a study entitled: "The Relationship Between Parenting Patterns, Sexual Behavior, and Early Marriage Incidence in Gedog Wetan Village."

RESEARCH METHOD

This study employs a correlational research design using a cross-sectional approach, where both the independent variable (parenting patterns) and the dependent variables (sexual behavior and early marriage incidence) are measured simultaneously at a single point in time.

The research was conducted in Gedog Wetan Village, Turen District, Malang Regency, from April to May 2025, encompassing the preparation, data collection, and data analysis phases. The population in this study consisted of adolescents who had experienced their first marriage, either through the Religious Affairs Office (KUA) or unofficial (siri) marriage, during the period from November 2024 to April 2025, totaling 40 individuals. The sampling technique used was purposive sampling, based on predetermined inclusion criteria: adolescents aged 15–25 years who were or had been married within that age range and had a history of dating or prior acquaintance before marriage. Of the total population, 38 respondents met the criteria and consented to participate, while 2 declined.

Data were collected using demographic questionnaires (age, gender, age at marriage, and last education level), the Parental Authority Questionnaire (PAQ) to assess parenting style, and a sexual behavior questionnaire. All instruments were pre-tested for validity and reliability before use in the main study. Data were analyzed using the chi-square test (χ^2) with a significance level of $\alpha \leq 0.05$ to determine whether there is a significant relationship between parenting patterns and both sexual behavior and early marriage incidence in Gedog Wetan Village. Statistical analysis was performed using IBM SPSS Statistics software. This study obtained ethical approval from the Ethics Committee of the Institute of Technology, Science, and Health at Dr. Soepraoen Hospital. All participants received full information about the research objectives and procedures and were required to sign informed consent prior to data collection. Participant privacy and data confidentiality were strictly maintained according to health research ethics, and all collected data were analyzed anonymously and used solely for research purposes.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Result

Respondent Characteristic

Respondent characteristics include gender, age at marriage, current age, and highest level of education. These data are essential to provide a general overview of the respondents' profiles.

Table 1. Distribution of Respondent Characteristics

Characteristic	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Age		
Middle Adolescents (14-17 Years)	4	10,5
Late Adolescents (18-24 Years)	34	89,5
Gender		
Male	15	39,5
Female	23	60,5
Age at Marriage		
<20 Years	29	76,3
>20 Years	9	23,7
Education		
Elementary School	16	42,1
Junior High School	16	42,1
Senior High School	6	15,8

Table 1 presents the demographic characteristics of the respondents. Based on age, 4 respondents (10.5%) were classified as middle adolescents, while 34 respondents (89.5%) were late adolescents. Regarding gender, 15 respondents (39.5%) were male and 23 (60.5%) were female. In terms of age at marriage, 29 respondents (76%) were married under the age of 20, while 9 respondents (23.7%) were married over the age of 20. As for maternal education level, 16 mothers (42.1%) had completed elementary school, another 16 (42.1%) had completed junior high school, and 6 (15.8%) had completed senior high school.

Analysis of the Relationship Between Parenting Patterns, Sexual Behavior, and Early Marriage Incidence in Gedog Wetan Village

a. Relationship Between Parenting Patterns and Sexual Behavior in Gedog Wetan Village

Table 2. Analysis of the Relationship Between Parenting Patterns and Sexual Behavior

Parenting Patterns	Sexual Behavior				Total	P Value	
	Mild		Severe				
	N	%	N	%	N	%	
Authoritarian	0	0	5	13,2	5	13,2	0,000
Democratic	22	59,9	0	0	22	59,9	
Permissive	2	5,3	9	23,7	11	28,9	
Total	24	63,2	14	36,8	38	100	

Based on the results presented in Table 2, the distribution of sexual behavior by parenting style shows the following: within the authoritarian parenting group, there were 0 respondents (0%) exhibiting mild sexual behavior and 5 respondents (13.2%) exhibiting severe sexual behavior. In the democratic parenting group, 22 respondents (59.9%) engaged in mild sexual behavior, while 0 respondents (0%) reported severe behavior. For the permissive parenting group, 2 respondents (5.3%) demonstrated mild sexual behavior, whereas 14 respondents (36.8%) were categorized as having severe sexual behavior. The analysis was conducted using the Chi-square test with a significance level of $\alpha = 0.05$. The result of the statistical test yielded a p-value of 0.000 ($p < 0.05$), indicating a statistically significant relationship between parenting patterns and adolescent sexual behavior in Gedog Wetan Village.

b. Relationship Between Parenting Patterns and Early Marriage Incidence in Gedog Wetan Village

Table 3. Analysis of the Relationship Between Parenting Patterns and Early Marriage Incidence

Parenting Patterns	Marriage				Total	P Value	
	Early Marriage		Not Early Marriage				
	N	%	N	%	N	%	
Authoritarian	5	13,2	0	0	5	13,2	0,014
Democratic	13	34,2	9	23,7	22	57,9	
Permissive	11	28,9	0	0	11	28,9	
Total	29	76,3	9	23,7	38	100	

Based on the results presented in Table 3, the distribution of early marriage incidence according to parenting patterns is as follows: in the authoritarian parenting category, 5 respondents (13.2%) experienced early marriage, while 0 respondents (0%) did not. In the

democratic parenting group, 13 respondents (34.2%) had early marriages, with 0 respondents (0%) not experiencing early marriage. Meanwhile, in the permissive parenting category, 11 respondents (28.9%) were married early, and 9 respondents (23.7%) did not marry early. The analysis was conducted using the Chi-square test with a significance level of $\alpha = 0.05$. The statistical results yielded a p-value of 0.014 ($p < 0.05$), indicating a significant relationship between parenting patterns and early marriage incidence in Gedog Wetan Village.

Discussion

The Relationship Between Parenting Patterns and Sexual Behavior in Gedog Wetan Village

Based on the findings presented in Table 2, in the authoritarian parenting group, there were 0 respondents (0%) who engaged in mild sexual behavior and 5 respondents (13.2%) who exhibited severe sexual behavior. In the democratic parenting group, 22 respondents (59.9%) demonstrated mild sexual behavior, while none reported severe behavior. The permissive parenting group showed 2 respondents (5.3%) with mild behavior and 14 respondents (36.8%) with severe behavior. These results indicate that democratic parenting was the most prevalent parenting style among respondents. A Chi-square test was conducted with a significance level of $\alpha = 0.05$. The analysis yielded a p-value of 0.000 ($p < 0.05$), indicating a statistically significant relationship between parenting patterns and adolescent sexual behavior in Gedog Wetan Village.

This finding aligns with previous studies, where 204 respondents (81.0%) were raised by parents with a democratic parenting style, while 24 respondents (9.5%) experienced permissive parenting, and 12 respondents (4.8%) authoritarian. Democratic parenting is characterized by a balance between control and acceptance, where parents show both high expectations and emotional support. These parents tend to value their children's opinions, personalities, and decisions. A hallmark of this style is open two-way communication between parent and child (Mediasari et al., 2025). Adolescents raised in democratic families often develop stronger character and are given the freedom to make life choices while being guided with rational boundaries to avoid risky behavior. In contrast, authoritarian parents tend to be highly controlling, which may lead adolescents to feel restricted and more likely to engage in secretive or rebellious behaviors. On the other hand, permissive parenting is characterized by low supervision and discipline, allowing adolescents excessive freedom that may lead to risk-taking, including risky sexual behavior (Faustina et al., 2024).

The predominance of female respondents in this study also contributed to the higher percentage of mild sexual behavior, as previous research has shown that male adolescents tend to engage in more frequent and riskier sexual behaviors than females. Socially, boys are often granted more freedom and tend to be more assertive in relationships, whereas girls are usually more passive. Additionally, most respondents reported marrying before the age of 20. Adolescence is a critical developmental stage, particularly in the area of sexuality. Adolescents must learn to navigate their gender roles, self-expression, and social interactions in a healthy and informed way. Sexual education should not focus on instructing sexual activity, but rather on identity development, ethical understanding, and social behavior. During this period, adolescents often begin experiencing attraction to the opposite sex, which

becomes a developmental task as they mature sexually. This attraction often becomes a motivation to begin romantic relationships (Putro et al., 2022).

In this study, three adolescents who were dating had already engaged in sexual intercourse. They admitted that sexual urges were triggered by missing their partners and being alone in private settings. Their experiences ranged from holding hands to intercourse, and they reported feelings of addiction to the experience. One informant claimed to have initiated sexual activity as early as junior high school. Two reported having sex in hotels and one in a boarding house, chosen for privacy and perceived safety. Exposure to peer influence and inadequate sexual education were significant contributors, with adolescents expressing curiosity driven by peers and school discussions, without fully understanding the risks of premarital sexual behavior (Faustina et al., 2024).

According to the researcher, democratic parenting is considered the most effective. However, in some cases, adolescent sexual behavior is not solely determined by parenting style. Even with democratic parenting, some adolescents still engaged in mild sexual behavior. This suggests that other factors such as peer pressure, self-concept, and exposure to pornographic content in media may play a significant role in influencing adolescent sexual decisions.

The Relationship Between Parenting Patterns and Early Marriage Incidence in Gedog Wetan Village

Based on the findings presented in Table 3, the distribution of early marriage cases by parenting style shows that within the authoritarian parenting category, 5 respondents (13.2%) had early marriages, while 0 respondents (0%) did not. In the democratic parenting group, 13 respondents (34.2%) married early, and none were classified as not marrying early. Meanwhile, in the permissive parenting group, 11 respondents (28.9%) were married early, and 9 respondents (23.7%) did not. Statistical analysis using the Chi-square test with a significance level of $\alpha = 0.05$ yielded a p-value of 0.014 ($p < 0.05$), indicating a significant relationship between parenting patterns and early marriage incidence in Gedog Wetan Village.

These findings align with the study by Efendi & Meria (2022), conducted in Marga Mulya Village, where the majority of respondents (81.7%) experienced democratic parenting. This is also consistent with Moerdijat (2025), who explained that one of the main reasons adolescents choose early marriage is mutual affection—many young people wish to marry quickly based solely on love, without consideration for long-term needs or responsibilities. Despite this, many parents remain wise and supportive, as revealed through interviews in which parents stated that they frequently discuss their children's future and provide guidance. Early marriage often stems from misinterpretation of religious teachings, customary practices, cultural traditions, and patriarchal norms that devalue women. In Indonesia, these factors are reinforced by traditional societal norms and intergenerational socioeconomic ties, which contribute to the persistence of early marriage (Gunawan et al., 2023).

Data from this study also showed that mothers' education levels were mostly low, with 16 respondents' mothers (42.1%) having completed elementary school, another 16 (42.1%) junior high, and only 6 (15.8%) senior high. Lower parental education is often associated with

a higher risk of early marriage. This supports the conclusion that parenting patterns are meaningfully related to early marriage incidence. In practice, judges often grant marriage dispensations for minors, citing reasons such as premarital pregnancy, economic hardship, education-related issues, cultural customs, and parental consent intended to prevent immoral behavior (Imron Hakiki, 2023).

In addition, early marriage at a young age can also stem from parenting errors, such as overly strict or overly permissive approaches. Some parents, driven by ambition, impose unrealistic expectations or give children complete freedom, both of which can lead to early marriage (Faustina et al., 2024). Parenting plays a foundational role in child development raising, nurturing, and educating children is a task full of challenges and responsibilities.

Based on the researcher's analysis, all 5 respondents raised with authoritarian parenting entered into early marriage. This parenting style, characterized by strict rules and limited freedom, can cause adolescents to feel constrained and rebel when unsupervised, resulting in engagement in risky behaviors, including early marriage. Interestingly, there were also 7 respondents raised under authoritarian parenting who did not marry early, indicating variation in outcomes even within a single style.

Among those raised with permissive parenting, 9 respondents married early, likely due to being overly indulged by their parents who tended to fulfill their children's wishes, including the desire to marry young. However, another 9 respondents raised permissively did not enter early marriage, suggesting that permissive parenting can still include certain rules or boundaries that discourage risky behavior.

Lastly, in the democratic parenting category, 13 respondents married early, likely due to the freedom granted by their parents. However, several others in this group did not marry early, showing that the trust and respect embedded in democratic parenting can influence adolescents to make more responsible decisions, even when given autonomy.

CONCLUSION

The findings of this study indicate that there is a significant relationship between parenting patterns and both sexual behavior and early marriage incidence among adolescents in Gedog Wetan Village. The democratic parenting style tends to promote healthier sexual behavior and reduce the likelihood of early marriage, as it is characterized by open communication, clearly defined boundaries, and strong emotional support. In contrast, authoritarian parenting, which emphasizes strict control with limited communication, and permissive parenting, which lacks supervision and discipline, are associated with increased risky sexual behavior and a higher tendency toward early marriage. Statistical analysis using the Chi-square test showed significance values of $p < 0.05$ for both sexual behavior ($p = 0.000$) and early marriage ($p = 0.014$), indicating a meaningful correlation. Therefore, it is recommended that parents adopt a democratic parenting approach as a preventive measure, providing guidance, support, and responsible freedom to adolescents to help them navigate their development and make informed life choices.

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