



OPTIMIZING CROSS-SECTORAL REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH EDUCATION ACTIVITIES TO PREVENT EARLY MARRIAGE IN BANYAKAN DISTRICT

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Article info	ABSTRACT
<p>Corresponding Author:</p> <p>Widhi Sumirat sumiratwidhi19@gmail.com m STIKes Pamenang Kabupaten Kediri</p>	<p>Optimizing cross-sectoral reproductive health education activities, by involving various stakeholders, such as the health sector, but also education, religion, local government, TNI/POLRI, Community Organizations, increases the effectiveness of early marriage prevention. The purpose of this study is to provide a comprehensive overview of the effectiveness of a cross-sectoral approach in reproductive health education for elementary and junior high school students in the Banyakan District area. This type of research is qualitative research with a descriptive analytical approach. The population in this study were students in grades 5-6 in 12 elementary schools and grades 7-8 in 1 junior high school in Banyakan District, using a total sampling technique. Data collection was carried out from November 12 to 19, 2025, with questionnaires before health education and one day after health education was conducted. The results of the study showed that before health education, the average knowledge score of elementary school participants only reached 28%, and junior high school participants 41%, while after participating in health education, there was a significant increase, with the average post-test score of elementary school participants increasing to 53%, while junior high school participants increased to 81%. This illustrates that optimizing cross-sectoral reproductive health education activities with early marriage prevention is very effective, so it is recommended that optimizing cross-sectoral reproductive health education can be used as an internal guideline in early marriage prevention programs.</p> <p>Keywords: <i>health education, reproduction, cross-sectoral, early marriage, Banyakan District</i></p>
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INTRODUCTION

Early marriage contributes to increased reproductive health risks, such as early pregnancy and childbirth, maternal and infant mortality, and mental health problems. Beyond

its health impacts, early marriage also leads to disrupted access to education, low quality human resources, and the perpetuation of social and economic inequality. A cross-sectoral approach to reproductive health education is crucial to address the complex impacts of early marriage. Collaboration between the health, education, social, religious, and local government sectors allow for a more comprehensive and sustainable strengthening of reproductive health education messages.

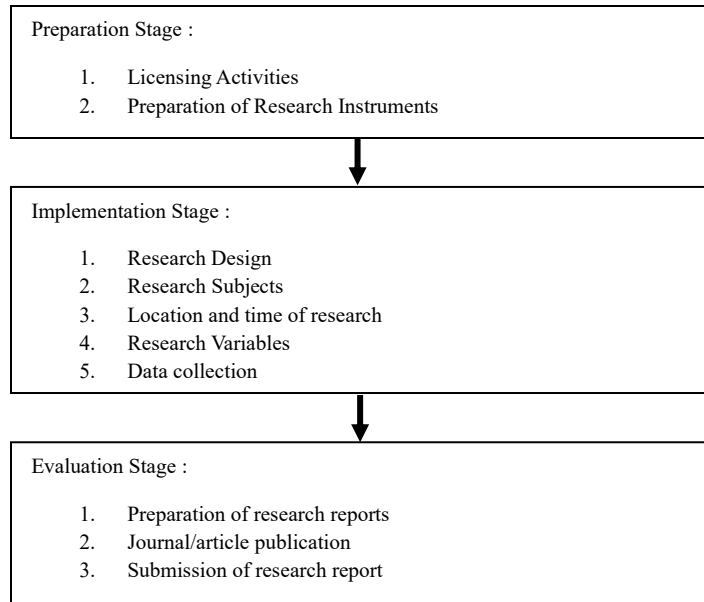
Currently, Banyakan District ranks second with the highest number of early marriage cases in Kediri Regency, after Mojo District. In fact, several prevention efforts have previously been carried out such as socialization activities involving various parties, namely BK teachers from all schools in Banyakan District, Social Cadres, Youth Organizations, Family Planning Field Officers (PLKB), KUA and Community Health Center officers which were held at the Banyakan District Hall in May 2025. However, the approach used in the socialization has not produced significant results, due to the still low active participation of teachers in continuing education to students, especially regarding reproductive health issues and child marriage. Many teachers still consider reproductive health a taboo topic to be discussed openly in schools, resulting in information delivered during outreach sessions not being consistently communicated to students, and educational messages not reaching their intended audience effectively. This situation ultimately results in the failure to reduce the incidence of early marriage in Banyakan District.

Answering the above problems, the author is interested in optimizing cross-sectoral reproductive health education activities by involving various stakeholders, such as the health sector, but also education, religion, local government, TNI/POLRI, Community Organizations. This activity is carried out directly to schools in the Banyakan District area, with the main target of elementary and junior high school students as age groups vulnerable to early marriage practices. Based on the description above, the author formulated the title of his research, namely "Optimizing Cross-Sectoral Reproductive Health Education Activities with Early Marriage Prevention in Banyakan District, Kediri Regency".

METHOD

This type of research is a qualitative study with a descriptive analytical approach, which aims to analyze how cross-sectoral reproductive health education activities can be optimized to prevent early marriage. This research will be conducted in 12 elementary schools and 1 junior high school in Banyakan District, Kediri Regency. This research is planned to last for 1 month with data collection time from 12 to 19 November 2025. The data collection technique and tool are a questionnaire containing 25 questions taken before and one day after the health education activities.

OPERATIONAL FRAMEWORK



RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The results of the study showed that before health education, the average knowledge score of elementary school students was only 28%, and junior high school students 41%. However, after health education, there was a significant increase, with the average post-test score of elementary school students rising to 53%, while junior high school students increased to 81%. This illustrates that optimizing cross-sectoral reproductive health education activities with early marriage prevention has proven effective.

Table. Survey analysis

No	Target	Pre Test	Post Test
1.	Elementary School	26%	53%
2.	Junior High School	41%	81%

This effectiveness is reflected in the increased knowledge of students. A cross-sectoral approach involving not only the health sector but also education, religion, local government, the Indonesian National Armed Forces (TNI/POLRI), and community organizations significantly contributed to the successful achievement of the objectives of this study. The health education delivered collectively not only focused on medical aspects, such

as the risks of early pregnancy and the reproductive health impacts of early marriage, but also encompassed psychosocial, educational, and economic aspects. This is in line with the view of the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Indonesia which states that child marriage is a multidisciplinary problem that requires integrated intervention from across sectors (Kemenkes RI, 2020).

Improving elementary and junior high school students' knowledge about reproductive health and early marriage is a key factor in reducing their intention to marry. This finding is supported by research by Chandra-Mouli et al. (2019), which states that comprehensive reproductive health education plays a crucial role in shaping adolescents' ability to make healthy and responsible decisions.

Cross-sectoral collaboration strengthens the referral system and program sustainability. The health sector provides counseling and education services related to reproductive health, the education sector plays a role in retaining students in school, the religious sector plays a role in moral and social legitimacy, local governments play a role as decision-makers and regulatory facilitators, the Indonesian National Armed Forces (TNI) and Indonesian National Police (POLRI) play a role in providing social security and community development by disseminating child protection laws, and community organizations play a role as agents of change due to their flexibility and broad reach in the community. Research from UNICEF (2021) shows that integrated cross-sectoral early marriage prevention programs have a more sustainable impact than single-sectoral interventions.

CONCLUSION

Research demonstrates the effectiveness of a cross-sectoral approach to reproductive health education for elementary and junior high school students in Banyakan District.

The Banyakan District cross-sectoral approach recommends improving the design and implementation of integrated and sustainable reproductive health education and adopting this approach as a model or internal guideline for cross-sectoral reproductive health education within the early marriage prevention program.

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