ABSTRACT

Parental Socioeconomic Status and Family Formation Readiness among Unmarried Young Adults in West Java, Indonesia

Sri Lilestina Nasution, Nunung Nurwati, Sri Sulastri, Ali Yansyah Abdurrahim

Correspondence E-mail : sril003@brin.go.id

Background : Family formation readiness among young adults may depend on individual characteristics and family-of-origin resources. Valid tests require predictors measured independently of the readiness index.

Objective : This study examined whether parental socioeconomic status (SES) is associated with family formation readiness, directly and through the respondent's educational attainment, among unmarried young adults aged 20–24 in West Java, Indonesia.

Research Methods/ Implementation Methods : We analyzed cross-sectional survey data from 483 unmarried respondents using partial least squares structural equation modeling (PLS-SEM). Parental SES was a formative construct of father's and mother's education and employment. Age, gender, household size, family structure, and educational attainment were single-indicator constructs. Readiness was measured with an existing ten-dimension composite index independent of all predictor items. Paths were estimated with 800 bootstrap resamples.

Results : Parental SES was positively associated with educational attainment ($\beta = 0.141$, $p = 0.002$) but negatively associated with readiness (direct $\beta = -0.132$, $p = 0.002$; total $\beta = -0.122$). The indirect path through education was negligible. Age ($\beta = 0.309$, $p < 0.001$) and female gender ($\beta = 0.201$, $p < 0.001$) showed the strongest positive associations. Educational attainment, household size, and family structure were not significant. The model explained 15.5% of readiness variance; estimates matched an earlier regression analysis.

Conclusion/Lesson Learned : Age and gender were more strongly associated with readiness than parental socioeconomic resources. Higher parental SES may reduce economic pressure to form a family early, consistent with extended emerging adulthood. Readiness programs should address age- and gender-specific needs rather than target by parental SES.

Keyword : Family formation readiness; parental socioeconomic status; educational attainment; emerging adulthood; PLS-SEM; Indonesia