

## EFFECTIVENESS OF BP4 IN PREVENTING EARLY MARRIAGE IN 2023 (CASE STUDY AT THE RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS OFFICE OF LABUHAN DELI DISTRICT)



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### Abstract

This research aims to see the effectiveness of BP4 (Marriage Advisory, Development, and Preservation Agency) at the Labuhan Deli District Religious Affairs Office in terms of preventing marriage at an early age in Labuhan Deli District. This research uses two problem formulations, namely what is the role and function of BP4 (Advisory, Development, and Preservation of Marriage) in the Office of Religious Affairs, and what is the effectiveness of BP4 (Advisory, Development, and Preservation of Marriage)? at KUA Labuhan Deli District in preventing marriage at an early age in Labuhan Deli District. This research includes qualitative research with empirical juridical research methods and uses two data sources, namely primary data sources and secondary data sources. The results of this research show that in 2023 there will be 40% of brides who marry under the age of 21. This shows that the role of BP4 counselors in preventing marriage at an early age is not yet effective because there are still many brides who marry under the age of 21, however, compared to the previous year, there has been a decrease in the number of early marriages, namely in 2022, in which year the number of early marriages reached 50. The KUA of Labuhan Deli District has tried its best to provide outreach on preventing marriage at an early age, but there are still internal and external obstacles that are obstacles to the effective implementation of preventing marriage at an early age.

**Keywords:** Effectiveness, BP4, Prevention, Marriage, Early Age

## INTRODUCTION

BP4 is an abbreviation (Marriage Advisory, Development, and Preservation Agency). A professional institution as a task developer and work partner for the Ministry of Religion (Ministry of Religion) in creating a *sakinah mawaddah warahmah* family. The aim of establishing BP4 is to improve the quality of marriage and create a *sakinah* family according to Islamic teachings and to achieve an advanced, independent, materially and spiritually prosperous Indonesian society and nation (Aswar et al., 2022).

BP4 as a partner institution of the Department of Religion is tasked with assisting in improving the quality of marriage by developing the *sakinah* family movement. According to Islamic teachings, to improve the quality of marriage, continuous and consistent marriage guidance and counseling are needed to create a household/family that is *sakinah, mawaddah and warahmah*. According to the preamble to the decision of Commission A of the BP4 (Utami et al., 2015).

Several reasons that form the basis of the philosophy for the founding of BP4 are stated in the preamble to BP4's Articles of Association which contains the core motivation and spirit for the founding of BP4, including the following:

First, humans, namely men and women, are encouraged to form a family (marry), to create peace and the growth of affection. Second, to create a prosperous and happy household, continuous and ongoing guidance from the Advisory Corps is needed. Third, it is necessary to have a corps of Marriage Counselors who have high morals and a clean conscience so that they can carry out their duties well (Ulfah & Iswanto, 2020).

The Ministry of Religion is responsible for the formation of households based on the values of life and religion which are the basis of the State, as regulated in Law Number 22 of 1946 concerning Supervision and Registration of NTR (Marriage, *Thalaq*, and Reconciliation) which applies according to the Islamic Religion.

In this day and age, marriage is something that many people do. Early marriage is marriage at an age where target preparation has not been optimal, whether physical preparation, psychological preparation, or material preparation. The impact of early marriage

on the economic needs of young families, on the one hand, will cause pressure due to inadequate financial preparation, and on the other hand, there will be an urge to consume and new needs due to rapid changes in times (Lubis & Muktarruddin, 2023).

Early marriage is not something new that is discussed, even though many risks must be faced by those who do it. Of course, early marriage has a negative impact on couples who marry early, both in terms of health, psychology, and economics. In terms of health, someone who becomes pregnant at a young age will cause various health problems from pregnancy to delivery.

Pregnancy at a young age is very vulnerable to the death of the mother and child or giving birth to a disabled baby. In this case, it is due to the mother's lack of reproductive and physical maturity as well as the lack of preparation for a girl who must carry out her duties as a wife and as a mother who cares for her children. In addition, there are also rampant cases of stunting in children born at a relatively early age of marriage and also divorces that occur after a short marriage or even just a matter of months (Mujibullah et al., 2019).

What is meant by early marriage in this research is a marriage that takes place at the age of 19 to 21 years, what happens in practice nowadays is if someone who is 19 years old wants to apply for marriage at the Office of Religious Affairs then they have to get a marriage dispensation. In line with this, the Ministry of Religion, through BP4 or the Marriage Advisory, Development and Preservation Agency, plays a role in providing advice regarding the family to create a family that is *sakinah, mawwaddah* and also *warrahmah* (Mujibullah et al., 2019).

Based on the results of simple research that the author conducted at the Labuhan Deli District Religious Affairs Office, the author obtained data that in 2023, there will be 395 marriages registered at the Labuhan Deli District Religious Affairs Office. 146 Prospective brides and grooms have an age range of 19-21 years, this shows that 37% of marriages that will take place in 2023 in Labuhan Deli District will be from young people.

Apart from conducting simple research at the Labuhan Deli District Religious Affairs Office, the author also conducted simple research in Labuhan Deli District, especially in Pematang Johar Village, where the author found that there were 3 cases of stunting experienced by

couples who married at the age of 19, and there were 3 people who He has separated from his wife/husband due to arguments due to differences of opinion, as well as work problems. Therefore, in this research, the authors will examine further the effectiveness of BP4 at the Labuhan Deli District Religious Affairs Office, whether it is effective in carrying out its role and function in terms of providing pre-marital guidance and preventing child marriages and preventing stunting problems and early divorce.

## **RESEARCH METHOD**

This research is qualitative research using empirical juridical research methods which use two data sources, namely primary and secondary. The data collection technique in this research uses field research techniques to find research related to the effectiveness of BP4 KUA Labuhan Deli District in terms of preventing child marriage (Darmawan, 2021). Then, library research, which means research that uses books or legal regulations related to this research. The data analysis method used in this research is qualitative analysis, namely by collecting materials, analyzing them to get answers to the existing problem formulation, and then presenting them in descriptive form.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

### **The Role and Function of BP4 (Marriage Advisory, Development, and Preservation Agency) in the Office of Religious Affairs**

BP4 (Marriage Advisory, Development, and Preservation Agency) is an institution responsible for providing consultation services, guidance, and efforts to preserve marriage in Indonesia. The main focus is to help married couples strengthen their relationships through mentoring and counseling programs. BP4 also helps couples who experience problems in the household, such as conflict or disharmony, to achieve a healthy, harmonious, and happy marriage. With this activity, BP4 plays a role in building strong families and maintaining the sustainability of the institution of marriage as the main basis for social development and community life in Indonesia (Hidayatulloh & Hasan, 2016).

The Advisory Body for the Development and Preservation of Marriage (BP4) was established based on the Decree of the Minister of Religion Number 85 of 1961. This decision recognized BP4 as the only body tasked with providing marriage advice and reducing the divorce rate following the Decree of the Minister of Religion Number 53 of 1958. As a result From this decision, BP4 was recognized as an official government agency (Lastari et al., 2024).

The BP4 organization, according to Article 3 of its Articles of Association, is a professional institution that collaborates with the Ministry of Religion to advance the *sakinah* family. The aim of establishing BP4, in accordance with Article 4 of the Articles of Association, is to promote Islamic values and Pancasila. According to Article 5 of its Articles of Association and Bylaws, the main objective of BP4 is to improve the quality of marriage to create a *sakinah* family following Islamic teachings, and to encourage material and spiritual progress and prosperity of the Indonesian people and nation.

The contents of article 5 regarding BP4's articles of association regarding efforts to achieve objectives, namely:

1. Improving the quality of marriage and harmonious family life.
2. Reducing the divorce rate by improving services for troubled families through counseling, mediation, and advocacy activities.
3. Strengthen BP4's institutional and human resource capacity to optimize programs and achieve goals.
4. Providing counseling about laws and regulations relating to the family;
5. Develop a partnership network with agencies/institutions that have the same mission and goals (Dewi et al., 2019).

Apart from that, there can also be other efforts that are useful for BP4 purposes, as explained in Article 6:

1. Providing guidance, counseling, advice, and consultation/counseling, regarding marriage, divorce, divorce, and reconciliation to the community, both individuals and groups, directly or through mass media and electronic media.

2. Guide laws and regulations relating to the family.
3. Providing mediation assistance to parties litigating in religious courts.
4. Providing advocacy assistance in resolving marital, family, and domestic disputes in religious courts.
5. Reducing the number of disputes, divorces, irresponsible polygamy, underage marriages, and unregistered marriages.
6. Collaborate with agencies, institutions, and organizations that have similar goals both at home and abroad.
7. Publish and disseminate marriage and family magazines, books, brochures, mass media, and electronic media as deemed necessary (Paryadi, 2021).
8. Organizing pre-marital courses, upgrading/training, discussions, seminars, and similar activities related to marriage and family.
9. Organizing family education to increase appreciation and practice of the values of faith, piety, and morals to build a *sakinah* family.
10. Play an active role in cross-sectoral activities aimed at fostering a *sakinah* family.
11. Increasing efforts to empower family economics and entrepreneurship.
12. Efforts and other efforts that are deemed beneficial for the interests of the organization as well as for the happiness and welfare of the family (Aulia & Pursetyowati, 2016).

To support the BP4 function, a premarital course is carried out, which is usually called Suscatin. Premarital guidance is guidance provided by the KUA to prospective brides and grooms (*catin*) who are about to get married. This guidance aims to provide knowledge direction and as a provision for building a *sakinah, mawaddah, wa rahmah* household, as well as to reduce the number of disputes, divorce, and domestic violence.

Among the coaching tasks is the coaching of the *sakinah* family. This task is synergistic with the duties and functions of the Office of Religious Affairs (KUA) based on the Decree of the Minister of Religion (KMA) Number 517 of 2001, which includes implementing prospective bride and groom courses (Suscatin), facilitating BP4 activities and

carrying out *sakinah* family development. Extension workers, BP4, and KUA ultimately play a vital role in carrying out the task of developing and maintaining marriages and reducing the divorce rate (Salsabila & Has, 2023).

BP4 (Marriage Advisory, Development, and Preservation Agency) at the Office of Religious Affairs is an institution that focuses on providing consultation services, guidance, and marriage preservation efforts in the context of Islamic religious administration in Indonesia. The Office of Religious Affairs is the main place where married couples can access coaching and guidance programs to strengthen their relationship. BP4 at the Office of Religious Affairs provides counseling regarding rights and obligations in Islam and provides solutions to problems faced by couples, such as domestic conflicts or communication problems. Through this activity, BP4 at the Office of Religious Affairs plays an important role in supporting the creation of harmonious families based on religious values, as well as promoting the integrity of the institution of marriage in Indonesian Islamic society (Aziz et al., 2022).

Islam is a religion that brings mercy to all of nature (*rahmatan lil'alam*) revealed by Allah SWT as the last religion which is a comprehensive religion. Where his teachings completely regulate all aspects of human life. So in this case the Marriage Advisory, Development, and Preservation Agency (BP4) in the context of Islamic law has a very important role and function in maintaining the integrity, harmony, and blessings of marriage in society.

The Advisory Body for the Development and Preservation of Marriage (BP4) can also have an important role in the context of Islamic law, with a foundation based on the verses of the Koran and the hadiths of the Prophet Muhammad SAW. BP4 is tasked with providing advice, and developing and maintaining marriages so that they continue to run following the guidance of Islamic law.

One of the verses of the Qur'an relating to the role of BP4 is in Surah An-Nisa' (4:1), as follows:

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ اتَّقُوا رَبَّكُمُ الَّذِي خَلَقَكُمْ مِنْ نَفْسٍ وَاحِدَةٍ وَخَلَقَ مِنْهَا زَوْجَهَا وَبَثَّ فِي

بَيْنَهُمَا رِجَالًا لَا كَثِيرًا وَلَا نِسَاءً ۚ وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ الَّذِي تَسَاءَلُونَ بِهِ وَالْأَرْحَامَ إِنَّ اللَّهَ كَانَ لِنُكْمٍ رَقِيبًا

"O people! Fear your Lord who created you from one person (Adam), and (Allah) created his partner (Eve) from (himself); and from the two of them Allah created many men and women. Be fearful to Allah, in whose name you ask each other and (maintain) family relations. Indeed, Allah always watches over you and watches over you."

This verse emphasizes the importance of maintaining integrity and balance in marriage. This shows that Allah SWT created humans in the form of complementary couples and the role of BP4 is to ensure continuity and happiness in marriage.

Apart from that, BP4 can also refer to the hadith of the Prophet Muhammad SAW which emphasizes the importance of advice in maintaining marriage. One of the relevant hadiths is the words of the Prophet Muhammad as narrated by Abu Hurairah, as follows:

عَنْ عَائِشَةَ قَالَتْ قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ النِّكَاحُ مِنْ سُنَّتِي فَمَنْ لَمْ يَعْمَلْ بِسُنَّتِي فَلَيْسَ مِنِّي وَتَزَوَّجُوا فَإِنِّي مُكَاتِرٌ بِكُمْ  
الْأَمَمَ وَمَنْ كَانَ ذَا طَوْلٍ فَلْيَنْكِحْ وَمَنْ لَمْ يَجِدْ فَعَلَيْهِ بِالصَّيِّمِ فَإِنَّ الصَّوْمَ لَهُ وَجَاءَ (رواه ابن ماجه)

"From 'Aisyah he said, "The Messenger of Allah sallallaahu 'alaihi wasallam said: "Marriage is my sunnah, whoever does not practice my sunnah is not from my group. You should marry, indeed with your number I will multiply the people. Whoever can wealth let him marry, and whoever does not should fast, because fasting is a shield."

Getting married also includes seeking the love of Rasulullah SAW by increasing offspring, because Rasulullah SAW will make us proud of other people on the Day of Judgment. This hadith emphasizes that in Islam, marriage is not just a social bond, but is also an important aspect of worship and obedience to Allah SWT.

So, the above hadith with counseling imply that counselors should be able to provide information services to clients related to marriage, including marriage law and the importance of marriage to carry out the sunnah of Rasulullah SAW (Dinata, 2015).

Thus, the role of BP4 in Islamic law is not only as a supervisor or advisor, but also as an institution responsible for ensuring that marriages run well following Islamic teachings, maintaining family integrity, and avoiding potential conflict or injustice in husband and wife relationships. Through an approach based on the teachings of the Qur'an and the hadiths of



the Prophet, BP4 is expected to make a positive contribution to fostering a society that has strong and harmonious family values in accordance with Islamic guidance (Talib & Lestari, 2017).

Thus, it can be simplified some of the roles and functions of BP4 related to the provisions of Islamic law as follows:

1. **Advisory and Consultation**, BP4 aims to provide advice and counseling to married couples regarding all aspects of married life. This includes advice regarding the rights and obligations of partners according to Islamic teachings, how to resolve conflicts, and efforts to strengthen the emotional relationship between two people.
2. **Spiritual and Moral Development**, BP4 has the responsibility to develop families so they can carry out their roles and responsibilities in accordance with Islamic values. This includes providing religious, moral, and social education to family members and helping them understand and apply Islamic principles in everyday life.
3. **Preserving the Integrity of Marriage**. One of the main functions of BP4 is to maintain the integrity and continuity of social marriage. BP4 seeks to prevent divorce by providing solutions and guidance according to Sharia. They also provide support and assistance to couples to overcome problems that arise in married life.
4. **Pre-Wedding Guidance**, BP4 in terms of pre-marital guidance to provide pre-marital education to prospective brides and grooms. They provide training and preparation for entering married life based on Islamic values. This includes teaching partners their rights and responsibilities, psychological and emotional preparation, and building a good understanding of family roles.
5. **Mediation and Conflict Resolution**, when conflict arises between couples, BP4 acts as a mediator and helps resolve disputes Islamically and peacefully. They try to resolve conflicts without directly taking formal legal action, by prioritizing the values of family and harmony in Islam.
6. **Family Protection Policy Advocacy**, BP4 also plays an advocacy role that supports the protection and development of family institutions in society. They strive to implement

policies that are in line with Islamic values and strive to maintain the blessings and unity of the family (Barqiyah, 2022).

Thus, BP4 in the context of Islamic law not only functions as an advisor and mediator in marriage matters but also as an educational and coaching institution that plays an important role in maintaining family integrity and blessings following Islamic guidance.

### **Marriage at an Early Age in Labuhan Deli District**

Early marriage is a marriage carried out before the age specified by the Constitution. In principle, the State sets a minimum age limit for marriage for Indonesian citizens with the intention that people who are getting married are expected to have sufficient maturity of thought, mental maturity, and physical maturity, which is important for achieving the aspect of happiness.

Early marriage is a marriage carried out by individuals under the age who should not be ready to carry it out. Early marriage in Indonesia is caused by several factors, namely individual factors where the low level of education and guidance on marriage issues, furthermore the current phenomenon, is the rise of the movement of several religious activists who promote young marriage without providing education for perpetrators of early marriage (Siregar, 2022).

Early marriage is when someone marries at a young age before they are physically and emotionally ready to live together as a married couple. This often happens because of customs, culture, religion, or social pressures in their environment. Early marriage can also have an impact on their education, work, health, and personal development because they have not had the chance to truly enjoy their teenage years without having to think about the responsibilities of marriage.

Discussions about early marriage often involve considerations about fairness, the welfare of children who may be born from the marriage, and the rights of individuals to make decisions based on their maturity. Although some cultures or religions allow early marriage, it is important to ensure that couples who marry at a young age have enough support to manage their marriage well, as well as access to education and other resources that can help them grow and develop optimally (Mustopa, 2023).

To prevent underage marriage, the government plays an important role in providing legal guidance and counseling to local communities. The government needs to have a special program to deal with this problem by providing legal education so that people are aware that underage marriage is an act that is wrong and should be avoided.

There are several factors related to the physical impact of marriage, namely as follows:

1. Health, in general, marriage requires certain age limits related to physiological maturity. However, marriage is not only about physical maturity but also overall health. Because, in a marriage, if there are problems with their health, it can cause problems for the family.
2. Heredity, in marriage, couples generally want to have children. Therefore, in marriage, one of the goals to be achieved is to obtain offspring (Ilya, 2023).

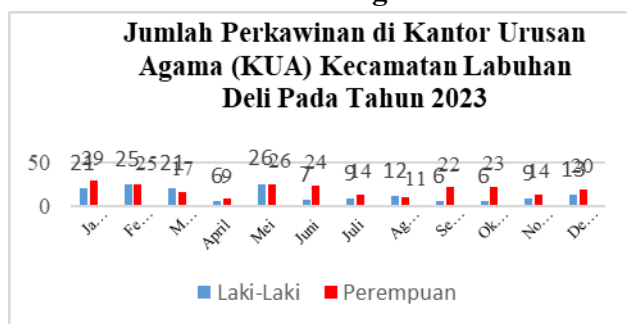
Apart from the above impacts, early marriage can also bring stunting problems to children. Stunting is a condition where children experience stunted growth, usually due to chronic malnutrition and environmental conditions that do not support optimal growth. First, early marriage often means that young mothers are not yet fully physically mature enough to face pregnancy and childbirth. This condition can cause a decrease in the quality and amount of nutrition available to the fetus during pregnancy, which has an impact on fetal growth and the risk of stunting in children. Second, married teenagers may experience limitations in knowledge and optimal nutritional practices, because they are still in their growth and development period. Lack of knowledge about proper nutrition and limited access to the resources needed to support good nutrition can increase the risk of stunting in children born from early marriages. In addition, early marriage often results in limited access to maternal and child health services which are important for monitoring and promoting optimal growth and development of children. It may also affect the readiness and ability of young mothers to provide adequate care and nutrition for their children after birth (Umami, 2022).

In this case, as is the practice that occurs in Labuhan Deli District, based on data from the religious affairs office of the KUA, Labuhan Deli District, it was found that the marriage practice that occurs in Kau Apa is that there are still people who marry at an early age or

under the age of 21 as regulated. In marriage law, 21 years of age is considered the age of maturity and maturity for a person to enter into marriage (Darmawati & Haddade, 2020).

Based on data obtained in the field, it was found that the number of marriages that occurred in 2023 at the Labuhan Deli District Religious Affairs Office (KUA) was as follows:

**Table 1.**  
**Statistics on the Number of Marriages in Labuhan Deli in 2023**



The data obtained from observations in the field regarding the age of marriage under 21 years old are as follows:

**Table 2.**  
**Total Marriage Age 19-21**

**Month**                      **Total Marriages**                      **Gender of Bride and Groom Married at Age -19 to - 21 Years**

Month	Total Marriages	Man	Woman
January	50	9	17
February	50	3	15
March	38	4	10
April	15	1	1
May	52	2	16
June	31	3	10
July	23	2	8
August	23	5	8
September	28	5	5
October	29	2	6
November	23	1	6
December	33	4	14
<b>Total</b>	<b>395</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>116</b>

Based on the data above, it can be seen that the total number of weddings in 2023 will be 395 brides and grooms, both men and women. Then it was found that the practice of marriage at the age of under 21 was 41 male brides and 116 female brides. From this data, it can be seen that 40% of brides and grooms will marry in 2023 at the Labuhan Deli District religious affairs office.

Based on this data, it can also be seen that 30% of brides who married under 21 years of age were female and 10 people married under 19 years of age. Women who marry at a too-young age or an early age certainly experience several obstacles, including reproductive problems (Lastari et al., 2024).

Based on this table, it can be seen that from January to February there was a decrease of 30%, in March it was 47%, in April 92%, in May 30%, in June 50%, in July 61%, in August 50%, in September 61%, in October 69%, in November 73%, and in December 30%. Based on this percentage, it can be seen that there will be a decrease from January to December in 2023 at the Labuhan Deli District Religious Affairs Office, which of course is based on the role of BP4 in the Labuhan Deli KUA.

Marriage at an early age can bring serious dangers to women. They have a high risk of experiencing reproductive health complications, such as maternal death during childbirth, and other health problems such as anemia and sexually transmitted infections. Their education and personal development are often hampered, leaving them more vulnerable to poverty and domestic violence.

In addition, there are rampant cases of stunting that occur in children born to husband and wife couples who marry at a young age. Apart from having a negative impact on married couples, marriage at the child's age will also have an impact on the children who are born, especially if the parents are not ready to take responsibility for the child.

Therefore, preventive efforts are needed to reduce the number of marriages at an early age, which in this case discusses efforts to prevent marriage at an early age carried out by BP4 (Marriage Advisory, Development, and Preservation Agency) at the Religious Affairs Office (KUA) Labuhan Deli District.

## **The Effectiveness of BP4 (Marriage Advisory, Development, and Preservation Agency) at the KUA Labuhan Deli District in Preventing Marriage at an Early Age in Labuhan Deli District**

The Office of Religious Affairs is the leading work unit that carries out government duties in the field of Islamic religious development. The scope of work of the religious affairs office is at the sub-district level, this is based on the provisions of Article 1 Chapter 1 PMA Number 11 of 2007 concerning Marriage Registration which states that the Sub-district Religious Affairs Office is an agency of the Department of Religion tasked with carrying out some of the duties of the Regency/Regional Department of Religion Office. City in the field of Islamic religious affairs in the sub-district area.

BP4 was founded as an effort to improve the quality of marriage based on religious demands, namely a marriage whose aim is not only to satisfy one's desires and wealth, but the marriage also aims at one's offspring in the sense of fully devoting and educating one's offspring and also has the aim of good luck in the sense that the marriage, both in its joys and sorrows, is experienced together with pure and pure love.

BP4 (Marriage Advisory, Development, and Preservation Agency) is an institution formed to provide advice, guidance, and preservation of marriage. BP4's effectiveness can be seen in its efforts to provide assistance and counseling to couples experiencing marital problems, including relationship, economic, and social problems. BP4 also plays a role in providing education regarding the importance of maintaining and strengthening marital bonds and preventing divorce. However, the effectiveness of BP4 can vary depending on the support and implementation of programs provided by the government as well as community participation in utilizing the services provided.

Guidance for prospective brides and grooms is not regulated in Islamic law either in the Al-Qur'an and Hadith, but looking at the benefits that arise from guidance for prospective brides and grooms so that the prospective bride and groom know or learn about their rights and obligations after marriage and can resolve conflicts. conflict in the household resulting in the formation of *sakinah*, *mawaddah*, and *rahmah* families. To achieve this, the

government formed an advisory body for the development and preservation of marriage (BP4).

Tasks and programs that can be carried out by BP4 to preserve marriage and reduce underage marriage:

1. Conduct counseling about the maturity of marriage age.
2. Coordinate with related agencies regarding the importance of maturity at marriage.
3. BP4 has the right to report to law enforcement regarding the prevention of marriage.
4. Carry out coaching through the Sakinah family program.
5. Collaboration with relevant governments (regional government, hospitals, and health services) in counseling about marriage laws.

In this case, the author also conducted interviews with several employees serving as BP4 (Marriage Advisory, Development, and Preservation Agency) counselors at the Religious Affairs Office (KUA) Labuhan Deli District. This was done because when the employees were able to communicate with each other well, employee productivity at work can increase. Communication as an operational element of the management system, through harmonious positive work communication can be advanced in achieving targets. The results of this research are as follows:

1. **Mrs. Ramadani, S.Pd. is one of the BP4 instructors at the Labuhan Deli District Religious Affairs Office.** She explained that in the realm of Labuhan Deli District, even today, the practice of marriage at an early age still occurs, this is of course based on several factors, one of which comes from environmental factors and the development of digitalization in the current era where many people get married at a young age. under 21 years of age, the trend of marrying at an early age is of course also based on the large number of artists who marry at that age. BP4 at KUA Labuhan Deli has provided counseling or outreach to prospective brides and grooms regarding the rights and obligations that must be fulfilled after marriage. The KUA has also explained that it is best to get married at a predetermined age and when they feel ready to get married, but in fact, this has not yet been realized to prevent *catins* from marrying at an early age. He

also explained that the basic prevention of marriage at an early age should be carried out by the family and the prospective bride and groom themselves, taking into account the recent phenomenon of the rise in cases of stunting and divorce at a relatively young age of marriage.

2. **Mrs. Naimah, SH, is one of the BP4 instructors at the Labuhan Deli District Religious Affairs Office (KUA).** She explained that preventing marriage at an early age is aimed at preventing divorce at an early age, where currently there is a phenomenon of many young couples choosing to divorce, of course, this has an impact on the growth and development of children who lose the figure and role of one of their parents. Therefore, the Labuhan Deli District KUA is making every effort to carry out outreach through the role of BP4 to prevent marriage at an early age, especially in Labuhan Deli District. One of the efforts made by the BP4 KUA Labuhan Deli District is to provide outreach to the community about the dangers and impacts of early marriage on bridal couples and children, especially for women in terms of reproductive health, and also in pre-marital guidance they always explain the impacts and dangers of stunting and the role husband and wife in fulfilling their rights and obligations as a married couple based on the regulations in force in Indonesia.

Based on the results of interviews with (2) BP4 instructors in KUA Labuhan Deli District regarding the prevention of early marriages that occur in Labuhan Deli District, it appears that the KUA has tried its best to provide counseling such as conducting outreach and also pre-marital guidance to prevent marriage at the age of marriage. at an early age, but this has not been optimally implemented. This can be seen from the data that 40% of people who marry are under the age of 21 years, which according to Article 6 paragraph 2 of the Marriage Law states that marriages performed under the age of 21 years require a marriage dispensation.

Apart from the interview above, the authors have also conducted an interview with one of the BP4 instructors at the KUA Labuhan Deli District regarding what activities have been carried out at the KUA Labuhan Deli District to prevent marriage at an early age, as follows:



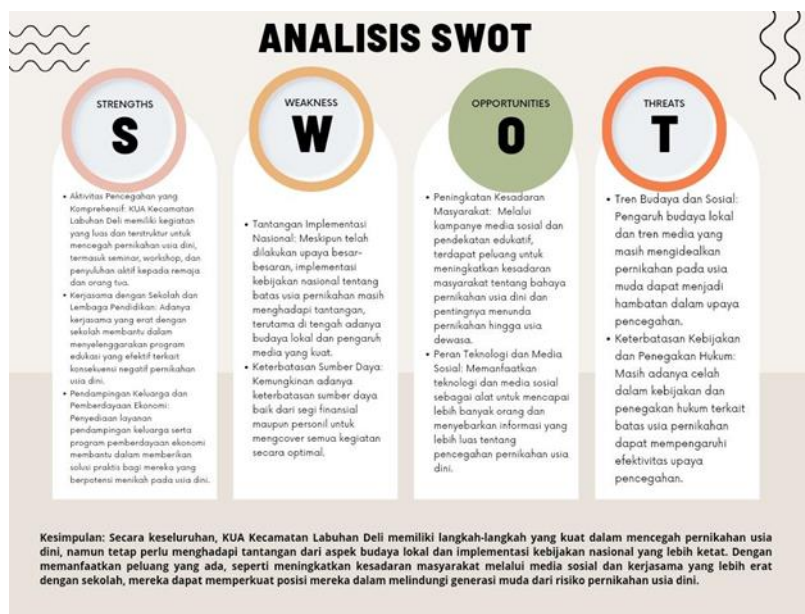
*"At KUA Labuhan Deli District, we actively carry out various activities to prevent early marriage. We hold seminars and workshops to provide a deeper understanding of the dangers of early marriage to teenagers and parents. In addition, we regularly provide education to parents about the importance of delaying child marriage until adulthood, intending to make them better understand the emotional and financial readiness required. In the school environment, we play a role in educating teenagers about the negative consequences of early marriage and encouraging them to remain focused on their education. Through campaigns on social media, we seek to spread widespread information about the dangers of early marriage and the importance of supporting teenagers in achieving their full potential. We also provide family assistance to help those facing problems related to early marriage, as well as collaborate with schools and educational institutions to organize activities that support the prevention of early marriage. In our efforts, we continue to monitor and evaluate cases of early marriage to increase the effectiveness of the prevention measures we take. In addition, we are developing an economic empowerment program to help families become more economically capable and able to postpone early marriage. We also provide legal education to the people of Labuhan Deli District regarding the laws and regulations regarding marriage age limits, so that they can understand their rights better. "With all this, we hope to make a significant contribution in protecting the younger generation from the practice of early marriage in Labuhan Deli District."*

Interview results show that the Labuhan Deli District KUA has been active in preventing early marriage with various activities such as outreach, education for parents and teenagers, social media campaigns, and family assistance. They also collaborate with schools and educational institutions, and monitor cases to increase the effectiveness of preventive measures. Economic empowerment programs and legal education are also part of their strategy. In this way, they are trying to provide better protection for the young generation in Labuhan Deli District from the risks of early marriage.

BP4 KUA Labuhan Deli District actively carries out various activities to prevent early marriage. In the field of outreach, BP4 holds seminars and workshops to provide an understanding of the dangers of early marriage to teenagers and parents. BP4 also provides counseling to parents and education in schools about the importance of postponing marriage until adulthood. Through social media, BP4 disseminates information about the dangers of early marriage and the importance of supporting adolescent development. BP4 also provides family assistance with these problems as well as collaboration with educational institutions. In monitoring, BP4 continues to evaluate efforts to prevent early marriage. BP4 also develops

economic empowerment programs for families and provides legal education regarding marriage age limits. With this series of activities, BP4 hopes to protect teenagers from the practice of early marriage.

BP4 in KUA Labuhan Deli District has an important role in preventing early marriage. To optimize its contribution, it is important to conduct a SWOT analysis that includes internal strengths as external opportunities. With an in-depth understanding through this SWOT analysis, BP4 can be more effective in preventing early marriage in the region. The SWOT analysis that the author has carried out is as follows:



**Figure 1.**  
**SWOT Analysis**

Based on the data above, to prevent early marriage, BP4 in KUA Labuhan Deli Regency can be an example of how its extensive activities can bring benefits to other areas. Working with schools can help effectively educate young people about the risks of early marriage. It is also important to explore ways to overcome challenges in implementing national policies and utilizing technology and social media to raise public awareness. This research can provide new ideas for sustainable prevention efforts in various regions.

BP4 in KUA Labuhan Deli District has a significant role in efforts to prevent early marriage. BP4 has carried out various prevention activities which include seminars and active counseling for teenagers and parents to increase awareness about the risks of early marriage.

Close collaboration with schools also helps in organizing effective educational programs. However, of course, BP4 also faces several challenges, such as implementing a uniform national policy regarding marriage age limits, especially amidst local cultures which may differ. Apart from that, limited resources, both in terms of finance and personnel, are also obstacles to running the program optimally.

On the other hand, there is a big opportunity to increase public awareness about the dangers of early marriage through campaigns using social media and broader educational approaches. Utilizing technology and social media can be an effective strategy to reach more people and disseminate wider information about preventing early marriage. Even though there are threats from local cultural influences that still idealize young marriage as well as policies and law enforcement that are not yet optimal, BP4 can continue to strive to overcome these challenges and strengthen their programs in protecting the younger generation from the risks of early marriage.

This is of course in line with Article 6 Number 5 of the Articles of Association of the Marriage Advisory, Development and Preservation Agency (BP4) that one of the efforts and efforts to achieve the goals as explained in articles 4 and 5 is that BP4 counselors need to prevent or reduce the number of marriages under age or at an early age.

So, the authors can conclude that the main obstacles that hinder the implementation of the role of the Marriage Advisory, Development and Preservation Agency (BP4) in effectively preventing marriage at an early age include socio-cultural factors that still maintain the tradition of early marriage as the norm, lack of public awareness of the dangers, and the negative impacts of early marriage, limited access to formal education and comprehensive pre-marital education, as well as weaknesses in the implementation and enforcement of regulations that limit the age of marriage. Apart from that, another challenge is the lack of coordination and synergy between BP4 and related institutions and organizations in efforts to prevent early marriage, as well as an imbalance in the dissemination of information and educational programs aimed at changing community perceptions and practices regarding early marriage.

## CONCLUSION

Based on the results of research conducted at the Labuhan Deli District Religious Affairs Office (KUA), marriage data in 2023 saw 395 people married at the Labuhan Deli District Religious Affairs Office, of which there were 41 men and 116 women who married in Age -19 to -21 years. BP4 extension workers in the KUA Labuhan Deli District have tried their best to prevent marriage at an early age through activities such as outreach, education for parents and teenagers, social media campaigns, and family assistance. They also collaborate with schools and educational institutions, and monitor cases to increase the effectiveness of preventive measures. However, the role of BP4 in the Labuhan Deli District Religious Affairs Office has not been effective in preventing and reducing the divorce rate at an early age because there are internal and external obstacles that are factors inhibiting its implementation. This can be seen from the 40% of people who married under the age of 21 years and 10 people who married under the age of 19 throughout 2023.

To increase the effectiveness of preventing early marriage in the KUA of Labuhan Deli District, there needs to be strengthened coordination between BP4, schools, and educational institutions. Expanding outreach and education through local and community media is also important to reach parents and teenagers. Apart from that, the development of family assistance programs and increasing the capacity of BP4 extension workers must be considered. Regular monitoring and evaluation of prevention programs as well as an integrated approach involving various related parties can help create more effective solutions.

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