

Digital Transformation in Marriage Education: Strategies for Preventing Child Marriage in the Digital Society Era

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ARTICLE INFO	ABSTRAK
Volume: 4 ISSN: 2963-5489	Child marriage remains a complex social problem in Indonesia, particularly in regions with limited access to education, economic resources, and family law literacy. At the same time, the digital society era presents new opportunities through the use of information technology as a medium for education and social intervention. This article aims to analyze the role of digital transformation in marriage education as a strategy for preventing child marriage. This study employs a qualitative method using a library research approach and conceptual analysis of policies, previous studies, and digital marriage education practices. The findings indicate that digital transformation can expand access to marriage education, improve legal and reproductive health literacy, and foster critical awareness among adolescents and families. However, its effectiveness largely depends on digital literacy levels, institutional readiness, and cultural sensitivity.
KEYWORDS	
Digital transformation, marriage education, child marriage, digital literacy	

1. Introduction

Marriage is a social and religious institution with the noble objective of establishing a harmonious and sustainable family. In Islam, marriage is regarded as a physical and spiritual bond that requires biological, psychological, economic, and spiritual readiness from both parties.(Nasution,2018) However, in social practice, the phenomenon of child marriage marriage conducted without adequate readiness—remains prevalent. According to UNICEF data, Indonesia is among the ten countries with the highest number of child marriages worldwide. (UNICEF, 2020) Child marriage has wide-ranging consequences, including high divorce rates, increased maternal and child mortality, school dropouts, and intergenerational poverty. The causes of child marriage are structural and multifaceted, encompassing poverty, cultural norms, gender inequality, and low levels of legal and reproductive health literacy.(Ministry,2022)

In this context, rapid digital development has transformed how societies access information and knowledge. Digital transformation has opened new opportunities for social education, including marriage education, which can be delivered more widely, flexibly, and sustainably. Therefore, utilizing digital media in marriage education represents a relevant and strategic approach to preventing child marriage in the digital society era

2. Literature Review

2.1 Child Marriage as a Structural and Multidimensional Issue

Child marriage has been widely examined as a multidimensional social phenomenon influenced by structural, cultural, economic, and institutional factors. Previous studies emphasize that child marriage is not merely an individual or family decision, but a consequence

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of systemic vulnerabilities such as poverty, limited educational access, gender inequality, and weak legal enforcement. (Stephanie, 2012)

From a development perspective, child marriage is closely associated with reduced human capital formation. Girls who marry early are more likely to discontinue education, experience early pregnancy, and face long-term economic dependency. Sen's capability approach highlights that early marriage restricts individual freedoms and life choices, thereby undermining sustainable development outcomes. (Amartya, 1999) Empirical studies in developing countries consistently show that child marriage increases the likelihood of marital instability, domestic violence, and intergenerational poverty. These findings support the argument that preventive strategies must move beyond legal prohibition toward educational and social interventions.

2.2 Marriage Education and Prevention-Oriented Approaches

Marriage education has emerged as a preventive social intervention aimed at improving marital readiness and family resilience. Scholars argue that marriage education should not be limited to premarital counseling but introduced earlier, particularly during adolescence. (Stanley, 2006) Marriage education programs typically cover legal rights and obligations, reproductive health, emotional maturity, conflict resolution, and financial management. Research demonstrates that individuals who receive structured marriage education tend to delay marriage and make more informed marital decisions. In the context of Islamic family law, marriage education aligns with the principle of *ta'lim* (education) as a means of achieving *maṣlaḥah* (public interest). (Hashim, 2008) Several studies argue that preventive education is more effective and less costly than post-marital legal interventions such as divorce litigation or child protection cases. (Cherlin, 2010)

3. Research Methodology

This study adopts a qualitative research method using a library research approach. Data were collected from academic books, national and international journal articles, official institutional reports, and relevant legal regulations addressing child marriage and digital education. (John, 2003)

Data analysis was conducted through thematic analysis by categorizing concepts and findings into key themes relevant to the research objectives. This approach enables a comprehensive conceptual understanding of the phenomenon under study.

4. Results and Discussion

The findings indicate that digital transformation plays a significant and strategic role in preventing child marriage through marriage education. Digitalization fundamentally reshapes how educational content is produced, distributed, and consumed, particularly among adolescents who are deeply embedded in digital environments. First, digitalization significantly expands access to marriage education, especially for adolescents living in remote, rural, or underserved areas where formal educational and counseling services are often limited. Through online platforms, mobile applications, social media campaigns, and digital learning modules, marriage education can be disseminated widely, continuously, and at relatively low cost. This expanded accessibility reduces geographical and institutional barriers that have traditionally constrained preventive education efforts. Moreover, the asynchronous nature of digital platforms allows adolescents to engage with educational content at their own pace, increasing the likelihood of sustained learning and reflection.

Second, digital-based marriage education contributes substantially to improved legal literacy and reproductive health awareness among adolescents. Access to accurate, evidence-based, and age-appropriate information enables young people to better understand the legal consequences, health risks, and social implications of early marriage. Adolescents who are exposed to credible digital content such as interactive videos, online counseling, and expert-led webinars tend to develop higher levels of critical thinking and informed decision-making regarding marriage timing and readiness. This finding supports previous research suggesting that informed adolescents are more likely to delay marriage and prioritize education, personal development, and economic preparedness.

Third, the effectiveness of digital marriage education is highly dependent on the active involvement of multiple stakeholders within an integrated digital ecosystem. Families, schools, religious institutions, and government agencies play complementary roles in reinforcing digital educational messages and ensuring their cultural and ethical relevance. When digital marriage education initiatives are aligned with family guidance, school curricula, religious teachings, and public policy frameworks, they generate a more coherent and sustainable preventive impact. In contrast, fragmented or institutionally isolated digital interventions often fail to produce lasting behavioral change.

These findings reaffirm that child marriage is a multidimensional social issue that cannot be adequately addressed through legal reform alone. While legal frameworks are essential for setting minimum standards and protections, they are insufficient without parallel

educational and social interventions. Digital transformation offers an innovative and contextually appropriate strategy that aligns with the realities of contemporary digital societies, particularly among younger generations. However, significant challenges remain, including disparities in digital literacy, unequal access to technology, and the growing risk of misinformation circulating through unregulated digital spaces. Without adequate digital governance and media literacy education, digital platforms may inadvertently reinforce harmful norms rather than dismantle them.

From the perspective of *maqāṣid al-sharī'ah*, digital marriage education strongly aligns with the higher objectives of Islamic law, particularly the protection of life (*ḥifẓ al-nafs*), intellect (*ḥifẓ al-'aql*), and lineage (*ḥifẓ al-nasl*). By equipping adolescents with knowledge that safeguards their physical and psychological well-being, promotes rational decision-making, and ensures responsible family formation, digital marriage education fulfills essential normative goals of Islamic jurisprudence. (Prensky, 2001). Consequently, the utilization of digital technology in marriage education can be regarded as a form of contemporary social *ijtihād*, reflecting adaptive legal and educational responses to evolving societal challenges in the digital era.

5. Conclusion and Implications

Digital transformation in marriage education constitutes an effective and relevant strategy for preventing child marriage in the digital society era. Digital technologies can expand educational access, enhance adolescent literacy, and strengthen family awareness of marriage readiness. Future efforts require integrated public policies that are culturally sensitive and collaboratively implemented to ensure that digital transformation genuinely contributes to the development of high-quality and resilient families.

The findings of this study carry important implications for policy development, educational practice, and future research. First, from a policy perspective, digital transformation in marriage education underscores the need for governments to move beyond reactive legal enforcement toward preventive, education-oriented strategies. Public policies should institutionalize digital marriage education as part of national child protection, adolescent health, and family resilience programs. (KPPPA, 2022). Integrating digital marriage education into formal school curricula, community education initiatives, and premarital counseling frameworks can ensure early, continuous, and standardized access to essential knowledge for adolescents.

Second, the practical implications highlight the necessity of strengthening digital literacy among adolescents, parents, and educators. Expanding access to digital platforms alone is insufficient without equipping users with the skills to critically evaluate online information and avoid misinformation. Therefore, capacity-building programs for teachers, religious leaders, and family counselors are crucial to ensure that digital marriage education content is accurate, ethical, and contextually appropriate. Collaboration with religious institutions is particularly important in culturally and religiously sensitive societies, where moral authority and normative guidance significantly influence family decisions.

Third, at the institutional level, the effectiveness of digital marriage education depends on cross-sector collaboration. Government agencies, educational institutions, religious organizations, civil society groups, and technology providers must work together to create an integrated digital ecosystem. Such collaboration enables consistent messaging, shared resources, and sustainable program implementation. Without institutional coordination, digital initiatives risk becoming fragmented and short-lived, limiting their preventive impact.

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