

# Study of Child Marriage Data in Deli Serdang Regency, North Sumatra Province – The Impact of Environmental Degradation a Cause of Poverty

## Environmental Impact on Fisheries

Mangrove deforestation, primarily due to shrimp and fish farming, and the expansion of oil palm plantations have drastically reduced fish populations. This forces traditional fishermen to venture farther, sometimes up to the Malaysian border, for reduced catches, which has led to a sharp drop in income and increased economic hardship.



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## Socio-economic Consequences

Poverty is deepened as fishermen struggle to earn a living. In Rantau Panjang Village, fishermen now earn only IDR 50,000 – IDR 100,000 (USD \$3–6) daily, a significant decline from prior years. This decline has resulted in fishermen's families turning to low-wage jobs like shellfish collection, and some even incur debt to sustain their livelihood.



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**STOP  
CHILD  
MARRIAGE**

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## **Poverty and Child Marriage**

Economic hardships correlate with social issues like child marriage, further perpetuating poverty and associated problems. The region sees high rates of child marriage, partly as a response to financial distress. Despite efforts to raise the legal marriage age, young marriages continue, entrenching cycles of poverty and limited educational and economic opportunities.



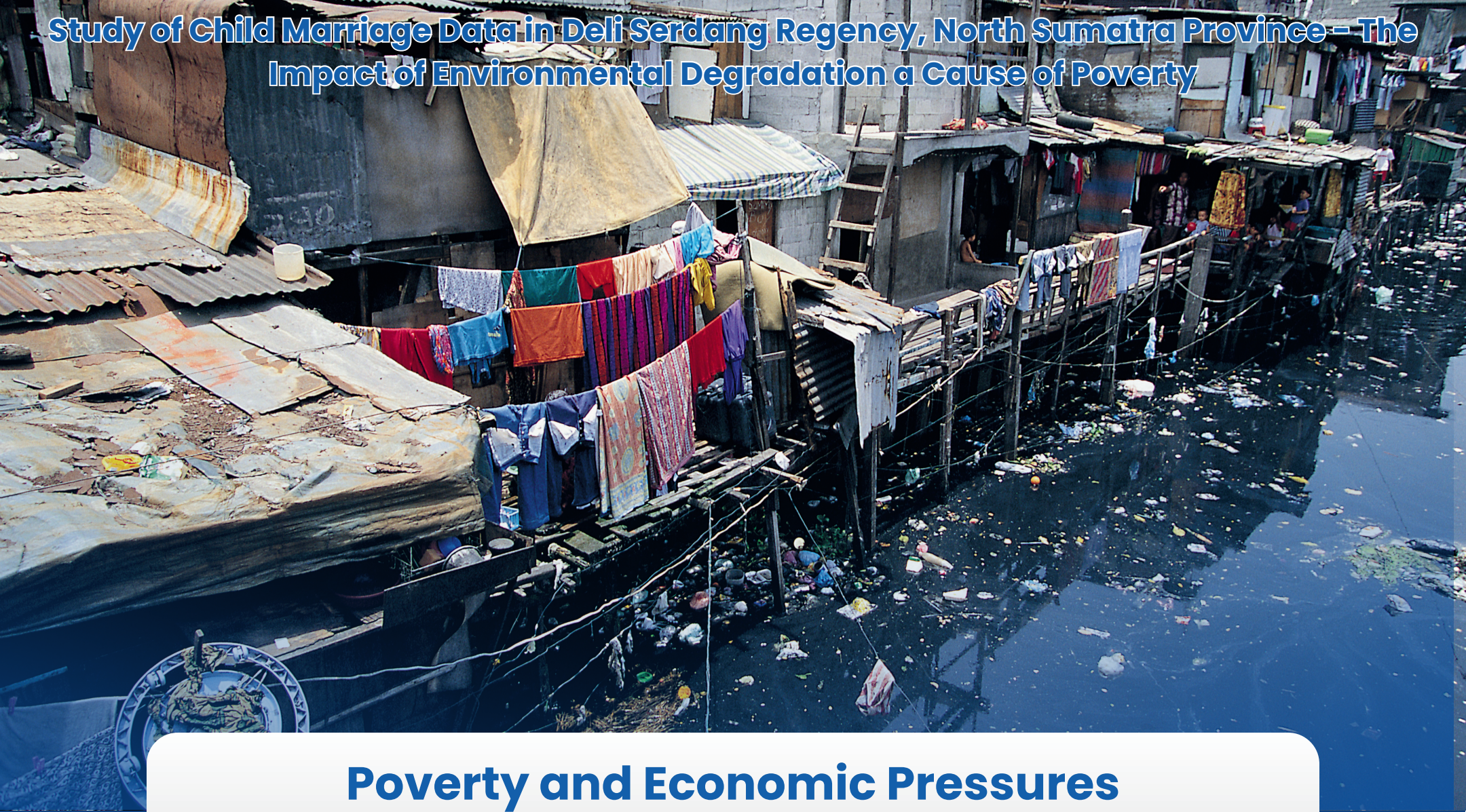
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## Poverty and Economic Pressures

Families facing poverty often prioritize marriage over education for girls, seeing marriage as a solution to economic difficulties. Early marriage typically results in girls having limited educational and income-earning opportunities, leading to a cycle of poverty that affects their children as well.



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## Social and Cultural Influences

Child marriage is influenced by community norms and social expectations, particularly in densely populated and economically disadvantaged areas. Parents may prioritize marriage to avoid social stigma, seeing girls as “property” who must obey parental wishes. Additionally, a patriarchal system and gender inequality play a significant role, as early marriage disproportionately affects girls and restricts their autonomy, health, and education.



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## Health and Rights Implications

Early marriage exposes girls to risks of early pregnancy, health complications, and limited access to healthcare, often leading to poor outcomes for both mother and child. Child brides also face a higher likelihood of domestic and sexual violence, with limited recourse to protection services once married.



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## Legal and Religious Factors

Although Indonesian law prohibits child marriage, conflicting legal frameworks and religious allowances (such as marriage dispensations from local religious courts) enable the practice to persist. Additionally, rural religious leaders sometimes support child marriage, creating an environment where cultural and religious norms override legal protections.



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## Gender Inequality and Advocacy Needs

Child marriage reflects broader gender inequality and calls for an end to this practice as a way to protect girls' rights to health, education, and personal development. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated these challenges, risking an increase in child marriage rates.



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Based on the UNICEF Children’s Climate Risk Index

Countries	Highly exposed to water scarcity	Highly exposed to riverine flooding	Highly exposed to coastal flooding	Highly exposed to cyclones	Highly exposed to heatwaves	Highly exposed to pollution		
						Highl exposed to air pollution (PM2.5)	Highly exposed to lead pollution	Highly exposed to pesticides
Cambodia	110,000	2,860,000	290,000	880,000	220,000	5,990,000	3,170,000	4,500,000
China	110,590,000	44,530,000	43,190,000	137,840,000	200,880,000	289,320,000	31,200,000	271,230,000
Democratic People’s Republic of Korea	3,750,000	900,000	1,160,000	6,130,000	2,460,000	6,050,000	4,880,000	5,470,000
Indonesia	3,490,000	6,970,000	28,310,000	2,210,000	15,180,000	74,050,000	8,270,000	10,000
Lao People’s Democratic Republic	390,000	1,020,000	170,000	2,390,000	2,150,000	2,810,000	580,000	50,000
Malaysia	180,000	1,170,000	790,000	N/A	1,160,000	8,110,000	60,000	6,930,000
Mongolia	1,000,000	90,000	N/A	N/A	1,100,000	260,000	140,000	N/A
Myanmar	610,000	4,510,000	5,780,000	4,390,000	2,290,000	17,190,000	4,700,000	8,580,000
Papua New Guinea	N/A	210,000	530,000	20,000	170,000	110,000	100,000	N/A
Philippines	13,690,000	5,660,000	18,780,000	37,420,000	6,080,000	17,880,000	20,020,000	24,450,000
Solomon Islands	N/A	N/A	270,000	220,000	N/A	N/A	100,000	N/A
Thailand	6,140,000	2,860,000	1,830,000	2,420,000	5,900,000	13,570,000	130,000	5,730,000
Viet Nam	1,970,000	11,680,000	19,620,000	15,960,000	5,740,000	25,760,000	3,240,000	16,940,000
TOTAL	141,920,000	82,460,000	120,720,000	209,880,000	243,330,000	461,100,000	76,590,000	343,890,000



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**child marriage has a significant adverse impact, both physically, mentally, socially, and economically.**

## Physical Impact:

- High health risks for girls, including complications of pregnancy and childbirth, such as maternal death, miscarriage, and bleeding.
- Increased risk of sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV / AIDS.
- Malnutrition and malnutrition, which can have an impact on the growth and development of the child.



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Mental and psychological impact:

- Psychological Trauma resulting from early marriage.
- Depression, anxiety, and stress that can interfere with a child's mental development.
- Loss of opportunity to enjoy childhood and adolescence.



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## Social Impact:

- Dropping out of school and loss of opportunity to get a decent education.
- Social isolation and exclusion from peers.
- Increased risk of domestic violence and exploitation.



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## Economic Impact:

- Loss of economic potential and productivity of girls.
- Additional economic burden for the family due to having to bear the costs of marriage and Child Maintenance.
- Increase in poverty and gender inequality in society.



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## Legal Framework

The Indonesian Child Protection Act includes provisions that obligate parents to prevent early marriages, indicating a legal framework that supports the prevention of child marriage.

However, despite these regulations, the enforcement and effectiveness of these laws remain a challenge. Cultural norms and economic factors continue to perpetuate the practice, particularly in rural areas where child marriage rates are higher.



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## Legal Framework

In 2023, Indonesia has made significant strides in regulating child marriage, primarily through legislative changes aimed at protecting children's rights. The minimum legal marriage age was raised from 18 to 19 years for both sexes with the enactment of Law No. 16 of 2019, which reflects a commitment to combat child marriage and enhance child protection.



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## Regulation for protection forest and enviromental In Indonesia

Regulations on forest protection in Indonesia include Law Number 41 of 1999 concerning Forestry Paragraph 47 regulates the protection of forests and forest areas to protect the rights of the state, communities, and individuals. Paragraph 48 stipulates that the government has the authority to regulate forest protection, both inside and outside forest areas.



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## Regulation for protection forest and enviromental In Indonesia

Government Regulation Number 45 of 2004 concerning Forest Protection This regulation is stipulated to implement the provisions of Paragraph 46 to 51, Paragraph 77, and Paragraph 80 of Law Number 41 of 1999 concerning Forestry. Government Regulation Number 60 of 2009 concerning Amendments to Government Regulation Number 45 of 2004 concerning Forest Protection This regulation amends Government Regulation Number 45 of 2004 concerning Forest Protection.



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