

The Influence of Gender Role Attitude on Marriage Attitude in Young Adulthood

Cahyaning Widhyastuti¹, Nida Muthi Annisa², Ade Daniatul Magfiroh³, Balqis Nurul Fazrin⁴

Universitas Informatika dan Bisnis Indonesia, Indonesia^{1,2,3,4}

Correspondent: Cahyaning@unibi.ac.id¹

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ABSTRACT: This research is a quantitative research with regression approach, that aims to determine the impact of gender role attitudes on marriage attitudes among young adults in Indonesia. It involved 113 participants ($M = 20.53$), and data were collected using a Google Form that included a gender role attitude scale and a marriage attitude scale. Data analysis was conducted through simple linear regression using SPSS Version 25. The results indicate that gender role attitudes significantly influence marriage attitudes. This suggests that a person's view on gender roles can affect their perception and evaluation of marriage.

Keywords: Gender Role Attitude, Marriage Adulthood, Young Adulthood In Indonesia



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INTRODUCTION

Discussions about gender remain a significant and relevant topic. When exploring gender, it involves various aspects of society. One crucial factor is individuals' attitudes toward gender, which can be classified into traditional and egalitarian perspectives (Prafitri et al., 2021). Traditional attitudes often entail assigning roles and responsibilities in household tasks based on gender, primarily relegating women to domestic duties. In contrast, egalitarian attitudes aim to reduce this division of labor by promoting equality between genders (Anwar, 2015). The gender role attitudes shaped by one's environment can greatly influence individual perceptions of gender within that society (Bonsang et al., 2017). For example, women living in communities that uphold traditional gender roles typically encounter restricted opportunities for education and employment outside the home, leading to a predominance of domestic responsibilities among them. Conversely, individuals in environments that embrace egalitarian principles are more likely to find equal opportunities in both education and the workforce, regardless of gender. However, it is important to recognize that even when opportunities seem equal, gender fairness in practice is not always achieved (Steensma et al., 2013).

Gender justice and equality should be fundamental concerns within the family. Promoting gender equality and justice can have a positive impact on family dynamics. These benefits include children

feeling they are treated fairly by their parents, girls having equal opportunities as boys to contribute to the economy, and parents enjoying peace of mind knowing they are fair to their children. Achieving gender justice in the family can be facilitated by encouraging cooperation among family members in domestic tasks (Olivetti et al., 2020). There should be no strict divisions between men's and women's work, and both women and men should have equal roles and opportunities in education and employment (Craig & Mullan, 2010).

Some factors that influence a person's attitude about gender roles are as follows: 1) **Culture**, related to norms in society and existing traditions are considered to be able to influence a person's perspective on gender roles; 2) **Religion**, this refers to an individual's beliefs obtained from the teachings of the religion they adhere to. So that religious teachings and individual beliefs will shape the individual's attitudes and views about certain gender roles; 3) **Education**, related to a person's level of education. Where individuals with this level of education are related to the knowledge they have acquired. Individuals with a high level of education tend to have a more egalitarian attitude; 4) **Social environment**, namely related to the environment and people around the individual. Family, friends, the role of technology and social media can shape an individual's perspective on gender roles

Over time, as both men and women gain equal opportunities in education and work, many women have become more willing to collaborate with men. Furthermore, women now have equal access to educational opportunities. These advancements in education and career prospects are changing individual perceptions of marriage. Women, in particular, view education and career development as equally important, if not more so, than marriage. As a result, some women consider their careers and education significant enough to delay marriage (Umasangadji, 2023). These individual perspectives on marriage are closely tied to attitudes toward marriage itself.

Marriage attitude refers to how individuals assess and interpret their marital relationships (Huang & Lin, 2014). It encompasses individuals' perceptions and evaluations of marriage, affecting how they view the institution itself. These perceptions can be both positive and negative. Individuals with a positive attitude towards marriage are likely to support aspects related to it and are often proactive in planning for marriage, showing a desire to maintain harmonious relationships and a willingness to resolve conflicts with their partners (Gherashiran et al., 2022). Such a positive attitude aligns with their optimistic views about marriage.

However, recent trends in Indonesia present an intriguing contrast. Data from the Central Statistics Agency (BPS) indicates a decline in marriage rates in the country (Arieza, 2024). Several factors contribute to this trend, particularly evolving views on gender roles. Increased access to education and career opportunities for women has led many to delay marriage in pursuit of a better life through personal and professional development. Park and Rosen (2013) support this idea, stating that individual attitudes towards gender roles influence expectations about marriage. The declining marriage rates, coupled with more women postponing marriage, suggest a shift in perspectives regarding women's roles in education and the workforce (Li, 2014).

Attitudes, perceptions, assessments, and views on marriage are shaped by various influences, including the social environment (Braaten & Rosen, 2008). This suggests that contemporary society has fostered attitudes towards gender roles that advocate for equality between men and women, providing both genders with equal opportunities in education and careers. As a result,

individuals are more open to reevaluating their views on marriage. Marriage is increasingly seen as a partnership that extends beyond love, incorporating mutual support and fulfilling the needs of both partners. Based on these observations and theoretical insights, this study aims to explore the relationship between gender role attitudes and marriage attitudes among early adults in Indonesia (Uunk, 2015).

METHOD

This research is a quantitative regression study that aims to determine the effect of gender role attitude on marriage attitude in early adulthood. Data collection was carried out by distributing questionnaires in the form of a Google, consisting of a gender role attitude scale to measure the extent to which individuals judge a role based on gender; and a marriage attitude scale which measures how individuals judge and view a marriage (Garcia-Cueto et al., 2014). The gender role attitude scale consists of 21 favorable statement items with a scale reliability of 0.830. The marriage attitude scale consists of 23 favorable statement items with a reliability value of 0.815.

The data collection for this research involved 113 participants, of whom 80 were female, with an average age of 20.53 years. The population in this study were unmarried young adults. The study employed a convenience sampling technique, meaning that participants were selected based on their availability, willingness to participate, and accessibility (Azwar, 2022). This approach was chosen because the respondents were easily reachable, without regard to the overall representation of the population (Cozby & Bates, 2020).

Each research respondent will receive a link to a Google Form, which they will fill out independently. The research questionnaire provided in the form aims to gather information from the respondents in several sections. The first section serves as an introduction, explaining the research's purpose and outlining the criteria for participation: respondents must be between 18 and 25 years of age and unmarried. Following this, respondents will indicate their willingness to participate in the research. Once consent is given, respondents will complete the first scale, which assesses marriage attitudes. This section includes questions with four response options: Strongly Agree (3), Agree (2), Disagree (1), and Strongly Disagree (0). Next, respondents will complete the Gender Role Attitude Scale, which consists of five response options: Strongly Agree (5), Agree (4), Neutral (3), Disagree (2), and Strongly Disagree (1). The questionnaire then moves to the personal data section, where respondents will provide details about themselves, such as gender, age, domicile, and so on. Finally, there is a closing section that expresses gratitude for the respondent's participation in the research. After collecting the data, the researcher will conduct data analysis to test the research hypothesis. This hypothesis will be tested using simple linear regression analysis techniques with the assistance of SPSS Version 25.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The first step researchers take after collecting research data is to conduct a normality test to determine whether the data is normally distributed. The results of the normality test are summarized in Table 1, which shows that both variables exhibit a normal data distribution. This

conclusion is supported by the significance values for both variables being greater than 0.05, indicating that the research data follows a normal distribution.

Tabel 1. Normality analysis

Variabel	<i>p</i>
<i>Marriage Attitude</i>	0.200
<i>Gender Role Attitude</i>	0.200

Following the normality test, the researcher performed a linearity test to determine if there is a linear relationship between the two variables. The results of this linearity test, presented in Table 2, indicate that the two variables do have a linear relationship. This conclusion is based on the deviation from linearity significance value being greater than 0.50, confirming that the marriage attitude variable and the gender role attitude variable are linearly related.

Tabel 2. Linerity analysis

Variabel	<i>Sig</i>
<i>Marriage Attitude*Gender Role Attitude</i>	0.740

After conducting both the normality and linearity tests, the researcher proceeded with a simple linear regression analysis to test the research hypothesis. The findings from this analysis, outlined in Table 3, reveal that gender role attitude significantly affects marriage attitude ($p < 0.05$). Additionally, gender role attitude accounts for 27.1% of the variance in marriage attitude.

Tabel 3. Hasil Analisis Regresi Linier Sederhana

Variabel	<i>p</i>	<i>R</i>²
<i>Gender role Attitude*Marriage Attitude</i>	0.003	0,271

The findings of this study suggest that the proposed hypothesis is accepted. This means that individuals' attitudes toward gender roles influence their attitudes toward marriage. Gender role attitude refers to the beliefs and attitudes individuals hold regarding the roles of men and women in the household and society (Yoo, 2020). Additionally, attitudes toward gender roles are associated with individual or community beliefs about the responsibilities and characteristics of women and men in various contexts, such as at home, in the workplace, and in society. Individuals' beliefs or views about household roles can affect their readiness for marriage. This relationship indicates that individuals will feel adequately prepared for marriage if they have a solid understanding of gender roles. Furthermore, positive gender role attitudes, which advocate for behaviors not strictly defined by gender, tend to make individuals more prepared for marriage. Positive gender role attitudes reflect the belief that men and women share equal responsibilities, with no rigid boundaries separating their roles (Taniguchi & Kaufman, 2014). For example, in a household where positive gender role attitudes are prevalent, it may be perceived that both parents should share the responsibility of childcare, and a wife should not be restricted from working if she chooses to do so.

The results of this study align with previous research, which indicates that understanding gender roles significantly influences individuals' perceptions and assessments of marriage (Park & Rosen,

2013). An individual's attitudes, views, and perceptions about marriage do not form in isolation. Rather, these attitudes can be shaped by the individual's understanding of gender roles within the family. In this context, an individual's attitude toward gender roles refers to how they evaluate and interpret family roles as they relate to gender. People tend to adopt a positive view of gender roles when they recognize that both men and women have equal opportunities in various areas. Additionally, they are more likely to believe that there are no limitations on work based on gender. Attitudes about gender are often connected to existing stereotypes. For instance, strong stereotypes about men may lead to the belief that men must not show sadness or cry, as this behavior contradicts societal expectations. However, individuals who have a positive attitude toward gender roles are more likely to believe that both men and women should be free to express their emotions. Thus, men crying does not equate to weakness or bad character. Consequently, individuals with a positive attitude see no limitations on rights and responsibilities based on gender. This perspective ultimately shapes their views on marriage, as they develop expectations about their roles and responsibilities when they eventually marry.

On the other hand, gender role attitudes are sometimes associated with traditional values and egalitarian beliefs. These attitudes can significantly influence how individuals view marriage. Those with traditional gender roles often believe that men and women have specific responsibilities within a marriage—typically viewing men as the primary breadwinners and women as caretakers of the home. This perspective can lead to more conservative attitudes toward marriage. Traditional gender roles create a clear division of responsibilities between men and women within the household. People who hold conventional views often choose to marry at a younger age. Their attitudes toward marriage differ from those who embrace egalitarian principles. Individuals with old-fashioned beliefs about gender tend to see marriage as a structured partnership, emphasizing distinct roles for men and women. Furthermore, those with traditional views are inclined to believe that a stable marriage is one that maintains a clear division of household roles.

Furthermore, individuals with egalitarian attitudes tend to support equality in the division of roles between men and women. Many people now view marriage as not necessarily a path to happiness, which may lead them to postpone getting married. Based on this explanation and aligned with research, it can be concluded that a person's views on marriage are often influenced by their beliefs about gender roles. This is also supported by findings that indicate society is becoming more open to education and career opportunities for women. Today, women have equal opportunities as men, and the pursuit of careers and education is increasingly seen as a way to improve one's quality of life. The expansion of opportunities for women to seek higher education and have career flexibility allows many to prioritize their careers and education first for a better future.

In addition to looking at the relationship between variables, this study also tries to analyze the description of research respondents in each variable. Researchers divide them into two categories, namely high and low.

Tabel 4. Kategorisasi variabel

Kategori	Variabel Penelitian	
	Gender Role Attitude	Marriage Attitude
Tinggi	48	45
Rendah	52	55

Table 4 above shows that there is no significant difference in individual attitudes about marriage and gender roles. However, for both variables it shows that the attitudes of the research respondents are mostly in the low category. For gender role attitudes, high attitudes towards gender roles refer to individuals who tend to view traditional gender roles. Individuals who interpret traditional gender roles will judge that men and women have different and clearly divided roles. The roles between men and women should not be exchanged.

Furthermore, individuals with traditional gender role views will see that a particular gender (male or female) will be closely related to the division of tasks, responsibilities, and behavior. This condition is formed because of norms in society that associate gender with certain behaviors, thus giving rise to expectations for individuals to behave depending on their gender. This study also shows that individuals with traditional gender role attitudes will tend to see women as subordinate figures. Women must submit and follow the orders of men. In addition, men are considered figures who are able to lead and hold responsibility. Therefore, men are also considered figures who can make decisions. Men will play more roles in the public sphere, such as working and earning a living for the family. Men are also considered figures who are able to protect their families and are able to do heavy work that takes a lot of physical energy (PM & Jayaraman, 2020).

This condition is certainly different from women, women are identical as figures who must follow orders from men. In the household, women also focus on domestic matters such as cleaning the house, taking care of the house, cooking, and taking care of children. Household matters carried out by women are based on the assumption that women are maternal figures and have gentleness. With the gentle attitude that is identical to women, it makes society have the expectation that women must submit and obey their husbands or men in the family (Twenge et al., 2003). This is what makes women considered not to have more authority.

The low attitude of research respondents about gender roles refers to the tendency of individuals who adhere to egalitarian gender roles. Individuals with views and attitudes on egalitarian gender roles tend to judge that men and women have the same contribution. Men and women have the same role in life. With this same role, there is no division of roles and responsibilities between men and women (Martin et al., 2022).

Egalitarian gender roles also relate to stereotypes and assumptions about a particular gender having no effect on the division of tasks, responsibilities and roles between men and women (Shaleh & Nuraini, 2021). Therefore, egalitarian gender roles see that individuals are free to choose their roles according to their interests and abilities, not because of social norms or gender stereotypes that are attached. Both men and women have equal access and opportunities in terms of education, employment and opportunities to develop. So that individuals have the freedom to pursue their interests and goals without any social norm limitations in society.

The findings of this study indicate that most of the respondents, namely 52%, have an attitude towards egalitarian gender roles. While some other respondents, namely 42%, have a tendency towards traditional gender roles.

Furthermore, the marriage attitude variable shows that most respondents have a low marriage attitude score. Marriage attitude refers to how someone views and experiences marriage. An individual's attitude about marriage will affect how they will build a relationship, see differences

between individuals, and create healthy relationships (Riggio & Weiser, 2008). The high marriage attitude category refers to individuals having a positive attitude about marriage. A positive attitude about marriage means that individuals have views and attitudes that support, appreciate and are optimistic about marriage. A positive attitude is also related to individuals having the belief that marriage has benefits for them emotionally and socially. So that individuals will see that marriage is something important and beneficial.

Furthermore, individuals with a positive marriage attitude tend to have the belief that marriage is an important and meaningful relationship. This condition then encourages individuals to value commitment more and have the desire to build a marriage relationship (Cherlin, 2004). Individuals with a positive marriage attitude mean that they accept the roles and dynamics of the relationship that will be carried out. They understand that the decision to marry will have an impact on changes in the roles that will be carried out. So that individuals tend not to be rigid about gender roles and are more focused on trying their best for the relationship.

On the other hand, respondents who have low scores on marriage attitude indicate that they tend to have a negative marriage attitude. A negative marriage attitude can be interpreted as an individual assessing and viewing marriage pessimistically. In addition, individuals also tend to be skeptical in viewing and assessing marriage relationships. Individuals also have doubts, fears and distrust of marriage (Robles et al., 2014).

The findings of this study indicate that most respondents have a negative marriage attitude. This means that 55% of respondents in the study still have a pessimistic attitude and doubt about marriage. Respondents feel that marriage is a relationship that will limit their freedom and freedom. This finding is in line with the current phenomenon, that early adults tend to choose to postpone marriage because they want to prioritize their careers and education. This condition is what causes the marriage rate in Indonesia to also decrease.

CONCLUSION

This study reveals that gender role attitudes significantly influence marriage attitudes. Specifically, it indicates that an individual's perspectives on the division of gender roles affect their views on marriage. The finding that gender role attitudes account for 27.1% of the variance in marriage attitudes suggests that personal beliefs about marriage play a crucial role in shaping how individuals perceive and interpret marital relationships.

However, the research has some limitations that could serve as suggestions for future studies. Notably, this study did not examine the relationship between gender role attitudes and marriage attitudes within a specific gender. Future research could explore these differences more thoroughly. Additionally, researchers may want to investigate internal factors that influence marriage attitudes, particularly those related to marriage readiness.

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