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The Role of Digital Media in Disseminating Early Marriage Literacy: A Case Study in Timor-Leste - Indonesia Border Region

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Abstract Early Marriage is a problem in society, affecting mostly mothers and children. Additionally, the data acquired in Timor-Leste showed that teenage pregnancy mortality was high compared to adults. This issue was commonly observed in rural areas, particularly the border regions, resulting in the need to review early marriage literacy. The research concentrated on the marginalized rural areas and the use of digital media to disseminate information on how to handle challenging situations. Academically, this research supported peacebuilding theory centered on positivity, using the media to resolve social problems. The objective was to analyze how the media disseminated information about issues related to early marriage around the border. A qualitative descriptive method was adopted by analyzing titles, pictures, and content on the web, including direct observation of the border areas. The results showed that digital media (digital news) played an important role in early marriage literacy. Some information disseminated as a form of literacy efforts was related to reproductive health, children's educational skills, and maturity. It was recommended that media personalities need to collaborate with experts in the field to educate couples and the community about early marriage, including its prevention.

Keywords Media-based dissemination, literacy early marriage couple, Border Area.

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1. Introduction

The practice of early marriage is a challenge in rural communities due to several difficulties, including minimal facilities for education, health centers, medicine, social perceptions, etc. Most children lack the opportunity to continue schooling due to distance, resulting in early marriage. The report by the UNFPA Timor-Leste stated that 19% of young women between 20 to 24 years were married before 18, and 24% already had a child at 20.1. Additionally, the census data shows that half of these young women, particularly within the ages of 15 to 19 years, had more than one child. The majority of the teenage mothers die nearly twice as many as those aged 20 to 24 years (1,037/100,000 vs. 534/100,000) (Deborah Cummins, 2017). This research focused on why the number of early marriages in rural areas was high, including the support of the social and cultural environment.

Prior research on child marriage predominantly addressed case descriptions and potential solutions. In addition, three research patterns were identified first, those that frame child marriage as a significant issue, as exemplified by UNICEF (2020), (Greene & Stiefvater, 2019), and in the book titled *Girls Not Brides* (2018). Second, research that focused on causative factors (Dewan, 2018, S.Mensch et al., 2002, Jensen & Thornton, 2003) and third, the analyzed consequences of child marriage (Clark & Barber 2012; Fitria et al., 2024; and Wahhaj, 2022). The present research diverges by focusing on the lived experiences and perspectives of individuals who have been involved in child marriage. The adoption of in-depth interviews and secondary data enabled an understanding of how these individuals navigate their respective marital lives, as well as confront the challenges arising from post-marital life.

The objective of this research was to analyze how the media disseminated information about issues related to early marriage in rural areas. The gap was reviewed by exploring three dimensions, which centered on the role of media, its impact on knowledge of reproductive health, children's educational skills in the Family (parenting), including increased maturity and social interaction (Social Membership), as well as citizenship. This comprehensive method integrated prospective cross-disciplinary methods, aimed to explore how the media web disseminated educative information on couples practicing early marriage and the impact on the community.

The present research reported that the media had a significant impact on the community. In rural areas, relevant information was disseminated through the web media. This led to the formulation of the hypothesis that web media needs to adopt a convenient online format for disseminating information among young people conversant with the digital method. Furthermore, an increased number of young people have access to web media, where information is easily shared through social media. The novelty of this research centered on rural areas, particularly communities located on the Indonesian border. These communities, such as Timor-Leste, promoted early marriage, using the media as the mediator in the dissemination of information to educate couples.

2. Literature Review

2.1 Dissemination Media-Based

Several conventional and digital media platforms were increasingly used to bridge the gap for disseminating accurate, relevant, and up-to-date information. According to Dearing (2021) Dissemination refers to the process of spreading innovative information from the sources to the audience. In this context, the process is interpreted as the sharing of messages through various platforms such as social media, websites, television, and radio. Social media enabled real-time communication, covering a wide range, which led to the effective and rapid sharing of information (Ma & Yates, 2014). Different media possess unique dissemination mechanisms. For example, SMS, microblogs, news portals, and television each have differing capabilities and effectiveness depending on the audience demographics and information context (Zhang et al., 2016).

The effectiveness of media-based dissemination is influenced by various factors. First, the selection of the appropriate channel is extremely important. Each media platform has different characteristics and audiences; hence, the selection of channels that suit the target audience increases the effectiveness of dissemination (Amilia et al., 2022). Second, quality messages or contents also plays a crucial role. This was because relevant, interesting, and easy-to-understand messages attract a larger audience. Apart from that, other factors such as the credibility of information sources, media interactivity, and feedback from the audience also influenced the success of dissemination (Hong, 2022). Abebe et al., (2024), reported that media interactivity and feedback from the audience increased engagement and understanding of the message conveyed. However, the use of social media has a negative impact on the development of interaction and communication skills, particularly among young adults (Jimenez & Morreale, 2015).

2.2 Literacy Early Marriage Couple

Literacy in early marriage refers to the comprehensive understanding of various marital aspects experienced at a young age, which is below the limit set by social norms (Corno & Voena, 2023). This includes knowledge about the negative impacts of early marriage in terms of health, economic, and social education. According to Delprato & Akyeampong, (2017) Early marriage literacy also requires the understanding of children's rights, reproductive health, and the legal consequences. Tampubolon, (2021), stated that this literacy must include an understanding of the factors that prompt early marriage, as well as effective prevention and management efforts.

Several factors influenced the extent of early marriage literacy in society. Suyanto et al., (2023), reported that poor educational levels, especially among women, contributed significantly to this issue. Additionally, socio-cultural factors, namely traditions and norms that support early marriage, also played a significant role (Psaki et al., 2021). Rumble et al (2018), focused on the role of poverty, and reported that lack of access to accurate information was an inhibiting factor of early marriage literacy. Kusumaningsih et al., (2023), also reported the engagement of peers in supporting other teenagers to get married early. Lack of public awareness regarding the negative impacts of this issue is viewed as an obstacle to increasing literacy (Jamilah, 2012).

2.3 Daerah Perbatasan (TL-Indonesia)

The Timor-Leste areas have unique and complex characteristics. Several experts and researchers have defined this region from various points of view. According to Chugunova (2023) The border region refers to a meeting zone between two sovereign countries characterized by significant social, economic, and political functions. Madison (2022), reported that it was a physical boundary line, and a space of interaction between the individuals of the two countries. Meanwhile, Sears & Anderson, (1994) stated that border areas were centers of trade, migration, and cultural exchange activities. The definitions supported this context, due to the lengthy history of interaction between the two countries, in respect to conflict and cooperation.

The dynamics of the Timor-Leste-Indonesia border were influenced by various internal and external factors. The internal factors included social, economic, and political conditions in both countries. For example, differing levels of economic development triggered cross-border migration and illegal trading activities. Additionally, external factors such as globalization and geopolitical changes reportedly influenced border dynamics (Irdayanti, 2017). The research by Steger, (2020) found that globalization increased the intensity of both positive and negative cross-border interactions. Another factor that needs to be considered is security issues, namely smuggling, illegal immigration, and other cross-border crimes (Luong, 2020). Therefore, a comprehensive understanding of these factors is essential for effective border management and cooperation between Timor-Leste and Indonesia.

3. Method

This research focused on the issue of early marriage in the border areas and how digital news web media functioned as literacy media. The national web media was selected because it covers a wide range of reports centered on diseases in the community, specifically illnesses associated with early marriage, namely cervical cancer, HIV, and family planning, including psychological aspects, nutrition, and education. The present research concentrated on media content uploaded on web pages, as well as analyzing whether it had disseminated information on the needs of couples engaged in early marriage.

A qualitative design was adopted based on reviews of news related to the focus point, including reproductive health, education, and nutrition. This was in accordance with the observation of the sociocultural and economic situations in the border areas. The adopted method addressed the adaptation of media information on early marriage in the community through direct observation.

Data was acquired from the National Media such as Timor-Leste, and Tatoli.tl. Additionally, information was also obtained from the following local media: *kompas.com*, *antaranews.com*, *cnnidonesia.com*, *kupangtribunnews.com*, and *Rakyatntt.com*. These web media were selected because of the interesting content uploaded and easy accessibility to young people. Data was collected by exploring the web news on both sides of Indonesia and Timor-Leste, including capturing the news images and clips on Microsoft Word. The search words on the web were obtained using the national languages of both countries, Bahasa Indonesia (BI) and Lian Tetum (LT). Examples included Early Married/Kabe sedu-LT/Pernikahan Dini, Health Reproductive/Saude reprodutivo-LT/Kesehatan Reproduksi-BI/, Child education/Edukasaun Labarik-LT/Penedidikan anak-BI, Nutrition/Nutrisaun-LT/Nutrisi-BI. Etc.




An inductive method was used to analyze clips from media publications, with the main stage coding focusing on specific variables. This included knowledge related to reproductive health, children's education, parenting, nutrition, maturity, and citizenship. Data regarding the image of the news was captured, as well as a description of the title and summary related to early marriage. Considering the discussion, these were sourced from the URL. The data obtained through news reports and online searches were further reviewed using the analysis method proposed by [Miles and Huberman \(2014\)](#). The method was divided into three stages, namely data reduction, display, and verification. Data reduction was performed by sorting the results into themes related to the strengthening of physical and social boundaries. The display process was carried out in the form of tables and narrative descriptions. Data verification was realized by rechecking the authenticity and suitability of the analysis process carried out by referring to three steps, namely: 1) data restatement to explain the results, 2) data description through searching for patterns and trends in the results, and 3) data interpretation intended to disclose the implied meaning of information found. All these steps were carried out carefully and thoroughly by referring to textual and contextual frameworks to produce an in-depth analysis.

4. Result

4.1 Knowledge Related to The Reproductive Health

Reproductive health is one factor that has important implications in early marriage. The media, through website, disseminated information on family planning because it enabled the improvement of the fiscal and economic conditions of couples. The table shows the media content associated with family planning in the border areas.

Table 1. News Related to Health Reproductive

Nu	Coding	Data	Descriptions	Sources
1.	Family Planning		Three thousand people participated in the Reproductive health education. The FOKUPERS director said this training is sexual education for young people to manage emotions, know themselves, have healthy communication, and stay away from infectious diseases prevention.	https://tatoli.tl/2023/10/12/ema-rihun-tolu-partisipa-edukasaun-seksual-
			The Ministry of Health launched Family planning in Bobonaro. With the theme for Happy with Space, three-year-old Children are Good for me, my family, and My Country. The objective is to decrease women's deaths, give love to the children, and make for family economically sustainable	https://tatoli.tl/2024/11/14/ministeriu-saude-lansa-advokasia-planeamentu-familiar-iha-bobonaro
			How to Maintain reproductive Health during Puberty, Don't Ignore it! Reproductive health is often overlooked. As puberty, teenagers need to know and take good care of themselves.	https://rakyatntt.com/cara-menjaga-kesehatan-reproduksi-pada-masa-pubertas-jangan-diabaikan/

2.	HIV/ AIDs	 	<p>Early Marriage: Old tradition, new problems, see the negative impacts!</p> <p>Early Marriage is a practice that has long been a tradition in various regions of Indonesia, and this issue triggers new debates. Although it has strong cultural roots, marriage at a young age often has negative impacts on a child's health, for example, HIV and Cervical Cancer, education, and welfare.</p> <p>CJMB trains young people on reproductive health and avoids early marriage.</p> <p>The Minister of Youth, Sports, Arts and Culture and UNFPA support training for young people in all villages in the territory of Timor-Leste on healthy relationships and reproductive health to avoid the spread of HIV/AIDS and serious marriage problems.</p>	<p>https://www.antaranews.com/berita/4488681/peknikahan-dini-tradisi-lama-masalah-baru-simak-dampak-negatifnya</p> <p>https://tatoli.tl/2024/04/15/cjmb-kapasita-foinsa-e-sira-kona-ba-saude-reprodutiva-no- evita-kaben-sedu/</p>
3.	Cancer Cervix		<p>Cervical cancer appears because of early marriage.</p> <p>Dr. Federico B. Alves said those who suffer are women who have married early and have early relationships at a young age.</p>	<p>https://tatoli.tl/2019/08/22/kankru-serviks-mosu-tanba-kaben-sedu/</p>
			<p>Is it true that young marriage increases the risk of cervical cancer?</p> <p>Obstetrician and gynaecologist, Yasmine Hasby, described cervical cancer as the type of cancer that most commonly attacks women. She confirmed that getting married at a young age is one of the risks of cervical cancer.</p>	<p>https://www.cnnindonesia.com/gaya-hidup/20230309064006-255-922721/nikah-muda-tingkatkan-risiko-kanker-serviks-benarkah</p>

Table 1 focused on reproductive health, outlining the interconnectedness of family planning, HIV/AIDS, and cervical cancer within the regional context, Timor-Leste and NTT-Indonesia, as reported in the digital news. The data showed the importance of reproductive health education, particularly for young people, while concentrating on the negative impacts of early marriage. The domain of family planning centered on the significance of reproductive health, and how to manage emotions, promoting healthy communication, as well as preventing infectious diseases. It also outlined government efforts in promoting family planning and addressing women's mortality. In view of this perspective, HIV/AIDS showed the negative impacts of early marriage on health, including the increased risk of cervical cancer. Additionally, the three sections cited medical professionals who asserted a strong connection between early marriage




and increased risk of cervical cancer. This reinforced the need for public health intervention that addressed both the cultural factors and medical risks, suggesting an interdisciplinary method that integrated medical, social, and cultural perspectives.

The pictures were from the official website of Media Timor-Leste www.tatoli.tl and Indonesian digital media such as www.rakyatnntt.com, www.Antaranews.com, www.cnnindonesia.com

4.2 Children’s Educational Skills in The Family (Parenting)

Parenting in early marriage is a difficult phase because of the transition from a single lifestyle to parenthood. The need to possess knowledge of the children’s educational skills is challenging for both couples. The subsequent table shows how digital media disseminated information regarding parenting. This centered on the understanding of child development and effective parenting methods.

Table 2. News Related to Parenting

Nu	Coding	Data	Descriptions	Sources
1.	Education	<div><div>VARANDA • MUNISIPU • NASIONAL • INTERNASIONAL • EKONOMIA • EDUKASAUN • SAUDE</div><div>DLU • ELESAN • HEADLINE • JUSTISA • DEFEZA • KAPITAL • KAMBU • KOMBATE HOAX • LIFESTYLE • REFL</div><div>NASIONAL, EDUKASAUN</div><div>Garante Kualidade Edukasaun Bázika Tenke Hahú Hosi Família</div><div>© 2019/05/03 2:08:04 PM DLU</div><div></div></div>	Guarantee education quality-based start with the Family. Discussions between civil society about the quality of education for children come that to guaranteeing quality by the family.	https://tatoli.tl/2019/05/03/garante-kualidade-edukasaun-bazika-tenke-hahu-hosi-familia/
		<div><div>VARANDA • MUNISIPU • NASIONAL • INTERNASIONAL • EKONOMIA • EDUKASAUN • SAUDE</div><div>DLU • ELESAN • HEADLINE • JUSTISA • DEFEZA • KAPITAL • KAMBU • KOMBATE HOAX • LIFESTYLE • REFL</div><div>INKLUSAUN SOSIAL</div><div>Inan-aman tenke hadook labarik sira husi violénsia</div><div>© 2024/12/09 8:10:42 PM DLU</div><div></div></div>	Parent need to keep their children far from Violence. This information is related to the seminar held by Fokupers and the Police, which underlines the national issue that Gender-based Violence has more than 1000 cases and 800 cases of domestic Violence in the family. and call for Parent to protect their children, specifically girls.	https://tatoli.tl/2024/12/09/inan-aman-tenke-hadook-labarik-sira-husi-violensia/
2	Nutrition	<div><div>VARANDA • MUNISIPU • NASIONAL • INTERNASIONAL • EKONOMIA • EDUKASAUN • SAUDE</div><div>DLU • ELESAN • HEADLINE • JUSTISA • DEFEZA • KAPITAL • KAMBU • KOMBATE HOAX • LIFESTYLE • REFL</div><div>HEADLINE, Oekusi</div><div>Autoridade RAEOA no A-LAO lansa fornesimentu ai-han nutritiva ba inan isin-rua no labarik</div><div>© 2024/08/12 9:00:58 PM DLU</div><div></div></div>	The authority of RAEOA and A-LAO launched nutritious food for pregnant women and children. This program focuses on pregnant women, breastfeeding women, and children under 5 years old. In TL, Oecusse is the third most affected, with 57% of children with malnutrition.	https://tatoli.tl/2024/08/12/autoridade-raeoa-no-a-lao-lansa-fornesimentu-ai-han-nutritiva-ba-inan-isin-rua-no-labarik/

		82,957 Fertile Couples in NTT Married Under the age of 19. Couples who marry under the age of 19 are mostly helped by government social assistance after processing family cards, marriage certificates, and identity cards. Humanitarian problems often arise from the results of their marriage, such as cases of stunting and malnutrition.	https://www.kompas.id/baca/nusantara/2021/11/14/82-957-pasangan-usia-subur-di-ntt-menikah-di-bawah-usia-19-tahun
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Table 2 shows the digital news data concerning parenting, with a specific focus on education and nutrition. In respect to the domain of education, the data outlined the crucial role of families in ensuring equality in the education of children. The civic society should promote socialization and motivate all parties to spend quality time understanding the needs of children, perceived as fragile. Ensuring quality education safeguarded the children from gender-based and domestic violence. Meanwhile, the nutrition category concentrated on the importance of addressing the nutritional needs of pregnant women and young children, intending to combat malnutrition. The data acquired centered on the issue of early marriage and its correlation with malnutrition, suggesting a complex interplay between social factors and child well-being. The essence was to reduce malnutrition in areas, and the introduction in the media created awareness regarding relevant policies to be implemented in the home, and where couples can find help. Information in the table was derived from news articles, providing a glimpse of the interconnectedness among education, nutrition, and family dynamics in influencing children’s development.

This digital information was published in the National media of TL, www.tatoli.tl, and www.kompas.id due to the accessibility to young people in the Border areas.

4.3 Increased Maturity in Social Interactions (Social Membership) Citizenship

Parenting in early marriage requires adaptation, maturity, and commitment. The skills could be learnt from experienced individuals, and training initiatives offered by government organizations and private institutions. Table 3 shows the qualities that should be embraced by young couples to boost maturity.

Tabel 3. News Related on Maturity in Social Interaction/ Citizenship

Nu	Coding	Data	Descriptions	Sources
1.	Psychology of dealing with stigma.		Stick to the identity of value and the dignity of marriage asked by CET The TL catholic church explains that a related phenomenon, related to a married couple, marriage is dissolved until the dead separately. And in marriage is to continue the generation and get the grace and value marriage with dignity.	https://tatoli.tl/2024/07/26/pozisaun-cet-ba-kazamentu-sivil-ho-seksu-hanesan/




			Catholic daily reflection on living righteously and faithfully. Kupang, NTT, In reflection as Christians, called for life to follow Jesus's steps, to live life correctly and loyal.	http://kupang.tri-bunnews.com/2025/02/19/renungan-harian-katolik-kamis-20-februari-2025-hidup-benar-dan-setia#google_vignette
2.	Culture		RFTL launched Tara-Badu to combat VBJ and VD in Maliana Tara-bando is a mutual agreement that stabilizes the community to prohibit a detrimental incident from occurring. This Information in digital media shows the village responsible for its implementation in the border.	https://tatoli.tl/2024/08/15/rftl-lansa-tara-bandu-hodi-kombate-vbj-no-vd-ih-maliana/
3.	Economic/ subside from gov. or LSM		SEFOPE Covalima supports financially to two self-employment groups. Secretary state of formation and worker of TL offer finance to group auto workers, who want to s\tart their business in rural areas. They hope this can help the family in the rural areas to sustain their family.	https://tatoli.tl/2025/01/27/sefope-covalima-apoia-orsamentu-ba-grupu-auto-empregu-rua-ih-2024/

Table 3 shows digital news data related to social interaction and citizenship, with respect to maturity within the context of Timor-Leste and NTT. It categorized news items into three thematic areas, namely the psychology of dealing with stigma, cultural practices, and economic subsidies. The first category showed the influence of religious institutions, specifically the Catholic Church, in influencing social norms and values related to marriage and family. The priest in the border areas motivated young people and married couples to follow the Christian doctrine and family values with dignity, underscoring the potential stigmatization of deviations from these norms. The second category examined the use of traditional cultural practices related to gender base violence, such as Tara-bandu, to prevent early marriage. This was aimed to address social issues and regulate community behavior, suggesting a reliance on indigenous mechanisms for conflict resolution and social order. The third category explored the role of government organizations in providing economic support to self-employed groups. This demonstrated efforts to promote economic development and self-sufficiency, particularly among young couples in rural areas. Data acquired from news articles provided a glimpse of the complex interplay between social, cultural, and economic factors, as well as influenced the social interaction and citizenship within the region.

Information was from the following national digital media www.KupangTribunNews.Com and www.Tatoli.tl.

5. Discussion

5.1 Summary

The research on the role of digital media in disseminating information about early marriage literacy in the border areas led to three important results. First, reproductive health in this context played a crucial role in shaping the well-being

of young couples, particularly in border areas such as Timor-Leste and Indonesia's NTT province. The government and civil society had actively addressed this issue through digital media, efforts such as family planning seminars, including cervical cancer, and HIV/AIDS prevention initiatives. These efforts aimed to ensure that early marriage led to healthier individuals, both physically and economically. Second, the media outlined the crucial role of parenting in providing home-based education and protection, specifically for vulnerable children. Third, high malnutrition rates in the region had prompted the government to implement food support programs in health centers, especially for young mothers, ensuring better nutrition awareness. This enabled couples to gain the relevant knowledge and resources required to raise healthy families, as well as seek assistance, when necessary, through the diverse initiatives.

5.2 Contextualizes

Dissemination of information through the media showed the crucial role of parenting. This also enabled early married couples to gain the knowledge and resources needed to raise healthy families and seek assistance when necessary. The dissemination process occurred when the local media promoted early marriage; for example, most men and women living in rural areas do not have access to appropriate information concerning healthy parenting. Furthermore, the sharing of information in the media led to increased understanding about child rearing. The appropriate knowledge and resources can raise healthy families that seek help when needed. Local media also played a crucial role in disseminating information regarding early marriage (Irianto, 2015; Kasimoglu & Tekin, 2023). In rural areas, where men and women often lack access to accurate information regarding healthy childcare. The provision of space for these issues enabled the increase in public awareness, thereby supporting the welfare of young families.

5.3 Interpretation

The present research reported that the web media disseminated information related to issues in border regions effectively. This included early marriage literacy associated with reproductive health, the educational and nutritional needs of children, including the development of maturity. For example, in Zambia, environmental education was successfully disseminated by the media personnel trained in areas specific to the country's situation. This led to the sharing of valuable content, including the performance of deep analysis by specialists in the field (Simooya, 2012). In the case of Timor-Leste and Indonesia, communication barriers and certain challenges were observed in rural areas. Additionally, the lack of infrastructural development made it difficult for media persons to access rural areas, including the border regions (Trisna et al., 2023; Ummah, 2019).

5.4 Understanding

The issue of information dissemination on early marriage literacy through digital media, including news outlets, showed the relevance of technology as an educational tool (Rohlfing, 2020). These border areas often faced challenges in sharing information due to minimal communication infrastructure, low levels of education, and limited access to social services (Nguyen & Wodon, 2014). Digital media, such as social platforms, online news portals, and education-based applications, disseminated accurate and evidence-based information regarding the impact of early marriage, children's rights, and the relevance of mental, emotional, and financial readiness to the public (Nascimbeni & Vosloo, 2019).

5.5 Comparison

These results were consistent with previous research despite focusing on Indonesia and Timor-Leste's social and cultural environment including how the media contributed to the knowledge of couples. Majority of these research concentrated on other subjects namely the environment, and conflict, leading to increased enrichment of literature on early marriage and media roles. Previous research discussed religious preaching/*dakwah* strategies realized through the adoption of interfaith, inclusive, and cooperative methods, excluding the dramaturgical method (Amin, 2022; Elmasry, 2010; Hew, 2019; Kadir, Firdaus Khairi Abdul, Siti Aishah Maliki, Abdul Hanis Embong, 2021; Matthew J. Kuiper, 2017; Sorgenfrei, 2021; Weismann, 2019). The developed methods associated with the principles of the *Dakwah* (religious preaching) were *da'watu al ammah*- (Communal *dakwah*), *dakwah fardiyah* (personal *dakwah*), and *dakwah su'ubiyah wa qabiyyah* (intercultural *dakwah*). Some of these methods were used by religious communicators according to the social conditions of the community. (Karimullah et al., 2023; Reka Gunawan & Abdul Muhid, 2022; Yuliasih, 2022). However, for minority and multi-ethnic Muslim communities, the existing models were considered unfit. This led to the selection of the dramaturgical method to renew the method of *dakwah* carried out by Muslim

minority communities in other areas. As a *dakwah* strategy, dramaturgy provided a more flexible method, allowing for better adjustment to the socio-cultural context in Nias.

5.6 Action Plan

Strategic steps were adopted to strengthen the knowledge of couples in the border areas. Additionally, dissemination media increased health awareness alternatives, including treatments and vaccines provided by both states, as well as administered by experts in the health center. The collaboration with the institutional Psychology Economic Act Motivator led to the mentorship of a couple. The implementation process required the participation of stakeholders such as the government, civil society, media personalities, local authorities, and religious organizations. In this context, a rural society engages in strong relationships and collaboration to provide information based on local problems and the best solution to the community. For example, in this research, community awareness of sexual health, centered on cervical cancer services and HIV/AIDS in early marriage. The present research aimed to provide a better life for young couples living in a healthy community.

6. Conclusion

In conclusion, this research proved that the media played a significant disseminating information in the border areas, specifically in terms of centralized reproductive and personal health awareness by the local leader. Additionally, education showed the importance of parenting and maturity. This was based on media reports on psychology to motivate young couples to remain strong and economically independent. Couples were advised to join community cooperatives to start small businesses. Information dissemination increased the understanding of reproductive health, resulting in a more adaptive and personalized learning ecosystem.

The present research significantly contributed to the educational literature, particularly in understanding how the media can disseminate information to enlighten people and couples. This manuscript makes a strong contribution to interdisciplinary fields such as postcolonial media studies, transnational literacy, and grassroots health communication. The strength of this evaluation focused on the fact that early marriage issues related to education, health, morals, and ethical institutions, in line with the theories of Johan Galtung/ positive peace/ and Paulo Freire, were made popular through the media. This research also expanded the conceptual frames of media-based learning by providing concrete evidence in news reports, creating awareness concerning the unhealthy lifestyle of couples. As a result, the exploration enriched the literature on digital education, providing a new conceptual framework for news dissemination.

Several limitations should be acknowledged as well as form the basis for future research, despite the valuable insights provided. For example, the research was limited to the cases of early marriage in the TL-Indonesia border areas. Further analysis should explore similar cases in different border areas. Qualitative methods provided in-depth insights but failed to capture broader quantitative dynamics regarding the effectiveness of the news and to utilize mixed methods or comparative approaches. For example, the research did not fully explore the influence of the news on couples' life. It also failed to properly review external factors such as education and health institutions. Additionally, the variability of information dissemination in the community required further exploration to understand its subjects. Further research should be conducted to overcome these limitations and expand the understanding of the dissemination significance in the border areas.

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