

# Investigation of the relationship between authoritarian personality and marriage readiness of emerging adult women

<sup>1</sup>Yasmin Adlina Heraputri Utami, <sup>2</sup>Darmawan Muttaqin, and <sup>3</sup>Sri Wahyuningsih

## Abstract

Emerging adulthood will experience a phase of self-exploration and enter married life. Therefore, individuals must have an authoritarian personality to adapt to changing roles and rules. Authoritarian personality supports individuals' married life because they must be submissive and obey the rules, values, norms, etc. This research investigated the relationship between authoritarian personality and marriage readiness in emerging adult women (Respondents number (N) = 196). The technique employed was purposive sampling. The research instruments used the Authoritarian Personality Scale and the Marriage Readiness Scale. This study applied the Pearson Product-Moment hypothesis testing method. The results revealed a positive correlation between authoritarian personality and marriage readiness ( $r=0.415$ ,  $p=0.000$ ). Besides, an authoritarian personality was also correlated with all aspects of marriage readiness. For individuals in emerging adulthood, it is necessary to understand that a submissive and obedient attitude can help them to be better prepared to face a new life, namely marriage.

## Keywords

authoritarian personality, emerging adult, female, marriage readiness

## Introduction

Marriage readiness is one of the main factors in deciding to marry. Besides, it also can predict marital satisfaction in the future (Ghalili et al., 2012). Marriage is an important rule or norm in almost all societies. It is because marriage is the correct way to unite a sense of belonging and build a family to raise and create new generations for the future (Ghalili et al., 2012). If marriage readiness can predict satisfaction in a marriage life, it can also see the risk of divorce in a marriage relationship.

According to previous studies, the lower the age at which individuals marry, the higher the divorce rate. Badruzaman (2021) mentioned that individuals married under the age of 21 would be very vulnerable to experiencing divorce. Generally, this is because they tend to be less mature and less prepared. This phenomenon is supported by Aini & Afdal (2020), mentioning that psychological readiness is also an essential factor that must be prepared before marriage, especially the level of emotional maturity.

One of the reasons why this research is vital to raise the topic of marriage readiness in Indonesia is because many married individuals have lower satisfaction or happiness than unmarried individuals. According to data from the Central Bureau of Statistics (BPS), in 2014, 68.74% of married individuals felt satisfied and happy, while 68.77% of unmarried individuals also felt the same. In 2017, the satisfaction percentage of married individuals was 71.09%, while for unmarried individuals was 71.53% (Badan Pusat Statistik, 2021). Although the satisfaction percentages were close during the years, the number was consistently higher for unmarried than married individuals. Their readiness can predict a sense of satisfaction for married individuals before

marriage (Karunia & Rahaju, 2019). It is because marriage readiness turns out to be one of the primary keys to satisfaction in a household (Karunia & Rahaju, 2019).

Besides the low level of satisfaction or happiness, the number of divorces in Indonesia also increased. As reported by BPS, there were 344.237 divorce cases raised in 2014. In 2015, the number increased to 347.256 cases and then augmented significantly to 365,633 in 2016. One of the primary causes of these divorce cases is a lack of satisfaction or happiness (Karunia & Rahaju, 2019).

Marriage readiness is one of the keys to marital satisfaction (Karunia & Rahaju, 2019). A marriage that is only based on feelings of love without any readiness, such as mental and material readiness, may hurt the household, such as divorce (Dewi et al., 2019).

Sunarti et al. (2012) mentioned that three conditions must be met before marriage. First, individuals must be able to earn income for basic needs. Second, they must be able to manage their family. Third, they must be personally mature to face life changes and new challenges. When individuals are not ready to marry and have not met these requirements, it is feared that it will cause conflict in their marriage. For example, changes or new habits will appear when an individual has started a marriage relationship with his partner. The new habit can be a woman who must obey her husband's household rules.

Matondang (2014) reported that several factors could cause divorce in marriage, one of which is age. Those who marry at

<sup>1,2,3</sup> The University of Surabaya, Indonesia

## Corresponding author:

Darmawan Muttaqin, Faculty of Psychology, The University of Surabaya  
Email: darmawan.muttaqin@staff.ubaya.ac.id

a young age experience psychological changes in themselves, which can cause anxiety in building a household. The National Population and Family Planning Agency (BKKBN) provides a legal age limit for marriage, which is 21 years for women and 25 years for men. According to medical science, the ideal age for psychologically and biologically mature individuals is 20-25 years for women and 25-30 years for men. Those ages can be considered decent ages to marry or have a family (BKKBN, 2017). According to the Marriage Law (UU), Number 16 of 2019 in Article 7 Paragraph 1, the minimum marriage age for women and men is 19 years (Pemerintah Indonesia, 2019). Based on the applicable law in Indonesia, individuals in emerging adulthood are the most likely age to start married life.

However, some traits of newly developed maturity in emerging adults are quite the opposite of marriage. One of them is when emerging adults are in the exploration phase of life, including romantic relationships. They tend to express new self-characteristics and behaviours (Wood et al., 2018). It can become a new problem when they start a marriage relationship if there is no tolerance and obedience from their partner. Not infrequently, during the exploration phase, emerging adult individuals exhibit negative behaviour related to sexual matters, drug use, and alcohol consumption (Wood et al., 2018). This characteristic is certainly the opposite of marriage because a marriage relationship requires a commitment between partners and obedience to the norms that apply as the basis of life (Karunia & Rahaju, 2019). Therefore, knowing the marriage readiness that appears in emerging adulthood is crucial.

According to Arnett (2014), the age range of 18 - 25 years is considered emerging adults or early adults. Emerging adulthood is a new phase or stage from late adolescence to the 20s, a year or a period of significant and vital changes (Arnett, 2014). In this period, individuals are no longer said to be teenagers but also cannot be said to have the responsibilities that adults should have because they are at the stage of building a stable life (Wood et al., 2018). Essential criteria for emerging adulthood include independence, adherence to norms, interdependence, role transitions, and biological transitions (Galanaki & Sideridis, 2018). Another criterion is to become financially independent. Problems of self-identity in young adults can also be seen from the three main areas of identity exploration: love, work, and worldview. In emerging adulthood, romantic relationships can last longer, exploring more potential, emotional, and physical intimacy until living together or married (Arnett, 2014).

Based on the sampling of female students at Surabaya University, Indonesia, it was found that 80% of female students were not yet ready to marry, and 20% felt sufficiently ready. Further, 60% of the students agreed that surrounding norms influence marriage readiness. Then, 80% of the female students believed that religious teachings, family, and law in Indonesia could influence marriage readiness. According to Ghalili et al. (2012), there are nine criteria for marriage readiness. Those are age readiness, physical readiness, mental readiness, financial readiness, moral readiness, emotional readiness, contextual readiness, interpersonal readiness, and marital life skills. These are in line with the conditions of the female students stating that the criteria for marriage readiness were financial, mental, physical, and emotional readiness and

a commitment to a partner in the long term. The data found also supported a theory from a study stating that individuals who are obedient and subject to authority have an authoritarian character or an authoritarian personality (Duckitt, 2015).

The attitude and behavior of individual adherence to existing norms and values can express an authoritarian personality. This obedience can be said to be inflexible towards the existing culture and makes authoritarian figures or leaders models (Campo, 2017). Individuals with this personality tend to separate themselves from the various value systems within or outside their group (Campo, 2017). Authoritarian individuals tend to perform habits or rules that have existed for a long time rather than following newly developed values or rules. Thus, an authoritarian personality is a personality in individuals who adhere more to things considered dominant in their lives, such as surrounding norms, religious teachings, family, and applied laws.

Adorno (in Duckitt (2015)) mentioned nine characteristics of the authoritarian personality: conventionalism, authoritarian submission, authoritarian aggression, anti-interception, superstition and stereotype, power and toughness, destructiveness and cynicism, projectivity, and sex. These nine traits were later developed by Altemeyer (1981), who then mentioned three traits of authoritarian personality: conventionalism, authoritarian submission, and authoritarian aggression (Duckitt, 2015).

The results of previous research demonstrated that marriage readiness with several criteria could influence the decision to marry. Several criteria for marriage require adjustment and adherence to certain things, such as; moral readiness emphasising the willingness to follow cultural and religious values; interpersonal readiness emphasising the willingness to understand, respect, and obey a partner; and contextual-social readiness emphasising the willingness to follow social rules (Karunia et al., 2018). Willingness or obedience to follow certain rules can be described as an authoritarian personality. Further, an authoritarian personality is a personality that is full of obedience and is still used to maintain cultural traditions (Peterson et al., 2011).

Based on the description, this study aimed to examine the relationship between authoritarian personality and marriage readiness. The selection of these variables was also based on various considerations from phenomena and previous studies.

Research by Peterson & Zurbruggen (2010) strongly described women who had authoritarian personalities. The research also revealed that women had different characteristics compared to men. The authoritarian personality is considered to be synonymous with women. Women are submissive, emotional, and dependent on others, while men are more dominant and independent (Peterson & Zurbruggen, 2010).

Furthermore, an authoritarian personality also positively correlates with traditional gender roles requiring women to stay home after marriage. It means that women will not have time for other work after starting a marriage. Authoritarian women will also focus more on responsibilities related to married life (Peterson & Zurbruggen, 2010).

Peterson & Zurbruggen (2010) described women's gender roles as similar to Indonesia's conditions and cultures. Women in Indonesia are still closely associated with patriarchal cultural values. Patriarchy is a belief that demonstrates men's position is higher than women's (Retnowulandari, 2010). In

Indonesia, it is still often judged that married women must obey their husbands, perform all household duties, and take care of children.

Besides cultural and gender factors, the existence of a schedule of life tasks (social clocks) is also the reason for this research. Life tasks that must be fulfilled, such as getting married, having children, having a career, and so on, are referred to as social clocks by Neugarten (in Sand). According to this concept, women should marry at 19-24 years, an emerging adult phase. However, the target age will also adjust to Indonesia's culture.

Differences in culture and habits in each country or region also make different thinking patterns. Several previous studies have indeed discussed marriage readiness in emerging adulthood. One example is research explaining that women's attitudes, such as being obedient, emotional, and not independent, strongly described authoritarian personalities (Peterson & Zurbruggen, 2010). Additionally, other research stated that traditional gender roles were related to authoritarian personalities reflected in the demands for women to always be at home and focus on housework when married (Peterson & Zurbruggen, 2010). Based on these studies, it can be illustrated that a woman's readiness to marry can be influenced by authoritarian personality, gender roles as women, and traditional perceptions.

The investigation and description of the relationship between authoritarian personality and marriage readiness have rarely been discussed in previous studies, especially those focused on emerging adult women in Indonesia. Therefore, this study investigated the relationship between authoritarian personality and marriage readiness in emerging adult women in Indonesia. Besides, this study also aimed to provide an overview of unmarried emerging adult individuals. Furthermore, this research is crucial for early education for emerging adulthood and significant persons in assisting marriage readiness, considering that individuals with authoritarian personalities will comply more with considerations and rules from their surroundings.

## Method

### Research design

The research respondents were active female students from the Faculty of Psychology, aged 18-25 years old, who had never been married. The choice of female subjects was because most women are obedient and involve various considerations in marriage readiness. The sampling technique was purposive, with certain regards or criteria (Sugiyono, 2019).

### Method of collecting data

**Marriage Readiness Instrument** The instrument used to measure marriage readiness was the Marriage Readiness Scale (MRS), compiled using the definitions and aspects from Ghalili et al. (2012). Determination of aspects and items was the modification results of the theoretical concept of Ghalili et al. (2012), also by adjusting the results of the initial interviews with many participants with the same criteria as the research respondents.

Furthermore, the selected aspects were aspects that could be measured psychologically. Based on the elimination results,

six aspects were determined spread across 34 items of the Marriage Readiness Scale, including mental readiness, moral readiness, emotional readiness, socio-contextual readiness, interpersonal readiness, and life skills household readiness. Mental readiness is related to an individual's readiness to plan life in the future, have logical expectations, and have a positive attitude toward marriage. There were five items in mental readiness, for example, "accept all circumstances that will be faced in marriage." Moral readiness is related to religious values and cultural background. There were five items in moral readiness, for example, "commitment to establish long-term husband and wife relationships long." Emotional readiness is the condition of individual emotional stability in fostering and maintaining marital relations. It contained six items, for instance, "not emotionally attached to parents." Social-contextual readiness is an individual's ability to form and maintain a marriage. It consisted of 5 items, for example, "have a steady job." Interpersonal readiness is the individual's ability to listen and understand other people. It was composed of 8 items, for instance, "consider the couple's needs and others." Finally, life skills and household readiness are required to fulfil certain roles in the family. It had five items, for example, "parenting and raising children." The Cronbach's Alpha value of 0.950 for the Marriage Readiness Scale.

The procedure for filling out the marriage readiness instrument was done by ticking (V) on the answer choice that was most appropriate to the respondents. MRS instrument used a Likert scale with four answer choices, including (1) very unprepared, (2) not ready, (3) ready, and (4) very ready. The scoring of instrument results was finished by observing the total score. The higher score obtained indicated the more marriage readiness of individuals.

**Authoritarian Personality Instrument** In previous studies (Peterson et al., 2011), authoritarian personality was usually measured using the Right Wing Authoritarian Anism Scale (RWAS). However, the items in RWAS are not in line with the conditions and culture in Indonesia. Hence, in this study, the instrument employed to measure authoritarian personality was the Authoritarian Personality Scale (APS), compiled using aspects from Altemeyer (Duckitt, 2015). The Authoritarian Personality Scale consisted of 3 aspects spread over 15 items: conventionalism, authoritarian submission, and authoritarian aggression. Conventionalism is an individual's tendency to obey and adhere rigidly to existing conventional values. It consisted of 5 items, for example, "following the rule of law in this country is essential to me." Authoritarian submission is the obedience or attitude of an individual who submits to a party or figure who is considered to be above himself, has power, and is respected. It had five items: "parental rules are very attached to me." Authoritarian aggression is the tendency to be aggressive, blame, and punish people who violate conventional values. It was composed of 5 items, for example, "I will stay away from other people who don't follow the norms in society". The Cronbach's Alpha value is 0.817 for the Authoritarian Personality Scale.

The procedure for filling in the authoritarian personality instrument was by placing a check mark (V) on the answer choice that best suits the respondents. APS instrument used a Likert scale with four answer choices, including (1) strongly

disagree, (2) disagree, (3) agree, and (4) strongly agree. Scoring of instrument results was done by observing the total score. The higher score indicated the stronger individual's authoritarian personality, or it could also be said that the individual is more obedient.

### Data analysis technique

The data analysis technique employed correlational analysis using the Pearson Product-Moment Correlation parametric test. It was employed to test the relationship between variables using SPSS statistical data processing software version 25.0 for Windows. The research hypothesis could be accepted if the sig value showed ( $p < 0.05$ ).

## Result

In this study, the total number of female respondents was 196. The characteristics of respondents exhibited good diversity from various ethnicities, religions, and lecture generations. Besides demographic data, several other questions aimed to see an overview of marriage readiness and respondents' opinion of the marriage age.

Several questions in the questionnaire were related to; (1) marriage readiness questions, "do you think you are ready to marry?" This question had two answer choices, "yes" and "no," and a column was provided for the respondents to give reasons for the answer they chose; (2) the desired age for marriage, "at what age do you want to get married? (Write down the answer in years, and give reasons!). In this question, the respondents could write answers freely; (3) the respondents' opinions of the ideal age for marriage. In this question, the respondents were asked to write the ideal age (in numbers) for men and women married; (4) dating status, "do you currently have a partner (boyfriend)? The respondents could choose the answer "yes" or "no." According to the questions, the demographic data of the research respondents could be drawn, as seen in Table 1.

Besides demographic data, the questionnaire results displayed in Table 2 also demonstrated that most respondents had an authoritarian personality, categorized as moderate (47.4%), while marriage readiness was classified as high (49.5%). The statistical analysis with ideal norms was employed to determine the categorization of authoritarian personality and marriage readiness levels from the respondents.

Table 3 presents the categorization results using ideal norms describing the respondents regarding aspects of marriage readiness and authoritarian personalities. When viewed from the six aspects of MRS, most respondents had mental, moral, interpersonal, and emotional readiness, which were in the high category. Regarding social-contextual readiness and marriage life skills, most respondents were in the very high category. The results also indicated that almost none were in the very low category for each aspect of MRS. It denoted that all respondents had at least some readiness to marry based on all MRS aspects. On the three aspects of the authoritarian personality (APS), most respondents were in the high category for conventionalism and authoritarian aggression. Contrarily, most respondents demonstrated the moderate category for authoritarian aggression

**Table 1.** Demographic Data

Characteristics	N	%
Gender		
Woman	196	100
Age		
18 years	54	27.6
19 years	52	26.5
20 years	32	16.3
21 years	52	26.5
22 years	6	3.1
Relationship status		
Currently Not Dating	129	65.8
Dating	67	34.2
Age Desired to Marry		
20 – 22 Years	11	5.6
23 – 25 Years	129	65.8
26 – 28 Years	51	26
29 – 31 Years	5	2.6
Age considered Ideal for Marriage (Generally)		
20 – 22 Years	13	6.6
23 – 25 Years	145	74
26 – 28 Years	36	18.4
29 – 31 Years	2	1

N = Number of Respondents, in a total of 196 people

**Table 2.** Categorisation of Authoritarian Personality and Marriage Readiness Levels

Variable	Category	N	%
Authoritarian personality	Very high	7	3.6
	High	89	45.4
	Moderate	93	47.4
	Low	7	3.6
	Very low	0	0
Marriage Readiness	Very high	44	22.4
	High	97	49.5
	Moderate	50	25.5
	Low	4	2
	Very low	1	0.5

Based on the results of the main hypothesis testing, there was a positive correlation between authoritarian personality and marriage readiness ( $p=0.000 > 0.05$ ). The results revealed that the higher a person's authoritarian personality, the higher their marriage readiness. Nevertheless, the large value of the correlation coefficient indicated that authoritarian personality had a relatively small correlation with marriage readiness ( $r=0.415$ ). It denoted that there are still other factors that may affect marriage readiness in emerging adult women.

**Table 3.** Categorization of Marriage Readiness and Authoritarian Personality of Respondents

Variable	Category	N	%
Aspect of Mental Readiness (MRS)	Very high	75	38.3
	High	83	42.3
	Moderate	34	17.3
	Low	4	2
	Very low	0	0
Aspect of Moral Readiness (MRS)	Very high	87	44.4
	High	90	45.9
	Moderate	16	8.2
	Low	3	1.5
	Very low	0	0
Aspect of Contextual-Social Readiness (MRS)	Very high	82	41.8
	High	73	37.2
	Moderate	30	15.3
	Low	10	5.1
	Very low	1	0.5
Aspect of Interpersonal Readiness (MRS)	Very high	77	39.3
	High	92	46.9
	Moderate	20	10.2
	Low	6	3.1
	Very low	1	0.5
Aspects of Marriage Life Skills Readiness (MRS)	Very high	82	41.8
	High	74	37.8
	Moderate	31	15.8
	Low	8	4.1
	Very low	1	0.5
Emotional Readiness Aspect (MRS)	Very high	61	31.1
	High	116	59.2
	Moderate	19	9.7
	Low	0	0
	Very low	0	0
Aspects of Conventionalism (APS)	Very high	42	21.4
	High	110	56.1
	Moderate	40	20.4
	Low	4	2
	Very low	0	0
Aspect of Authoritarian Submission (APS)	Very high	34	17.3
	High	123	62.8
	Moderate	38	19.4
	Low	1	0.5
	Very low	0	0
Aspect of Authoritarian Aggression (APS)	Very high	5	2.6
	High	24	12.2
	Moderate	109	55.6
	Low	49	25
	Very low	9	4.6

**Table 4.** Results of correlation test between aspects of each variable

		a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	Total MRS	Total APS
a	<i>r</i>	1	0.729**	0.681**	0.814**	0.828**	0.715**	0.423**	0.428**	0.085	0.903**	0.375**
	<i>p</i>		0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.234	0.000	0.000
b	<i>r</i>		1.000	0.636**	0.699**	0.687**	0.675**	0.437**	0.440**	0.132	0.820**	0.407**
	<i>p</i>			0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.066	0.000	0.000
c	<i>r</i>			1.000	0.691**	0.740**	0.614**	0.378**	0.369**	0.124	0.855**	0.353**
	<i>p</i>				0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.083	0.000	0.000
d	<i>r</i>				1	0.782**	0.711**	0.402**	0.395**	0.095	0.895**	0.359**
	<i>p</i>					0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.185	0.000	0.000
e	<i>r</i>					1.000	0.677**	0.390**	0.416**	0.181*	0.905**	0.402**
	<i>p</i>						0.000	0.000	0.000	0.011	0.000	0.000
f	<i>r</i>						1.000	0.239**	0.336**	0.107	0.806**	0.274**
	<i>p</i>							1.000	0.000	0.135	0.000	0.000
g	<i>r</i>							1.000	0.612**	0.402**	0.426**	0.836**
	<i>p</i>								0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
h	<i>r</i>								1.000	0.346**	0.442**	0.786**
	<i>p</i>									0.000	0.000	0.000
i	<i>r</i>									1.000	0.143**	0.766**
	<i>p</i>										0.000	0.000
Total MRS	<i>r</i>										1.000	0.415**
	<i>p</i>											0.000
Total APS	<i>r</i>											1.000
	<i>p</i>											

*r* = Correlation Coefficient, *p* = Significant Pearson, a = Mental Readiness, b = Moral Readiness, c = Contextual-Social Readiness, d = Interpersonal Readiness, e = Marriage Life Skills Readiness, f = Emotional Readiness, g = Conventionalism, h = Authoritarian submissions, i = Authoritarian Aggression, MRS = Marriage Readiness Scale, APS = Authoritarian Personality Scale

As seen from Table 4, the correlation test results between each aspect of authoritarian personality and marriage readiness and the total scale results revealed a positive correlation ( $p < 0.05$ ). Based on the results of the correlation test between the six aspects of the Marriage Readiness Scale (MRS) and the total Authoritarian Personality Scale (APS), it could be said that all aspects had a significant positive correlation ( $p = 0.000$ ) but had a low correlation coefficient value. The greatest correlation between the 6 MRS aspects and the total APS was found on the Moral Readiness scale ( $r = 0.407$ ), while the lowest correlation coefficient value came from the Emotional Readiness aspect ( $r = 0.274$ ). Similar to the correlation test results between the APS's three aspects and the total MRS, the Authoritarian Submission aspect had the highest correlation coefficient ( $r = 0.442$ ). The Authoritarian Aggression aspect had the lowest correlation coefficient ( $r = 0.143$ ) compared to the three APS aspects.

The correlation test between aspects of each scale was also conducted. If seen from the correlation between aspects of the Marriage readiness scale, the six aspects had a significant positive correlation ( $p = 0.000$ ). Almost all correlations between MRS aspects also showed a reasonably good correlation coefficient ( $r = 0.614 - 0.828$ ). Similar to the correlation results between APS aspects, the three aspects of APS exhibited a significant positive correlation ( $p = 0.000$ ). However, the value of the correlation coefficient between the three aspects of APS was lower ( $r = 0.346 - 0.612$ ) compared to the correlation between MRS. According to the correlation test between each aspect of the MRS and APS, most of them had a significant positive correlation ( $p = 0.000$ ). However, the six aspects of MRS and two aspects of APS (conventionalism and authoritarian submission) had no significant correlation with the APS aspect, authoritarian aggression ( $p > 0.05$ ). Besides, the value of the correlation coefficient was also classified as very low compared to the correlation between other aspects.

## Discussion

The results revealed that the hypothesis was accepted that there was a relationship between authoritarian personality and marriage readiness in emerging adult women. The respondents in this study were female students aged 18 – 22 years, and most of them currently did not have a partner or were not in a dating relationship. Nevertheless, the marriage readiness of most respondents already had high readiness for marriage. Santrock (2012) explained that individuals have certain targets expected to fulfil their life tasks, called Social Clocks. These include getting married, having children, establishing a career, etc. Each individual will have awareness within themselves when their age reaches the scheduled targets. According to the Social Clock concept, the best age for men to marry is 20-25 years, while for women is 19-24 years (Santrock, 2019). At those ages, the individual also enters the emerging adulthood phase, meaning that the individual should be aware of getting married, which is also related to self-readiness for marriage (Santrock, 2019).

Emerging adulthood with the concept of a social clock does seem to be in line with the developmental tasks put forward by Elfira (2018). The eight developmental tasks of emerging adulthood include choosing a life partner, learning

to live with a partner after marriage, assessing family life, caring for children, managing the household, starting to work, being responsible as a citizen, and finding a suitable social group. These developmental tasks reinforce the importance of marriage readiness because married life is not just about being married to a partner. Life after marriage will be even more challenging, especially with children.

Considering that this research was conducted in Indonesia, cultural factors and habits in Indonesia also affect individual readiness for marriage, especially regarding age. In Indonesia, the ideal age for marriage is 21 years for women and 25 years for men (BKKBN, 2017). Based on this age, it can be said that the marriage age in Indonesia follows the concept of the social clock. However, patriarchal culture is sometimes still attached to Indonesian society, which can later affect marriage readiness and individual married life.

Authoritarian personality can be closely related to the marriage readiness of emerging adult women because individuals who obey and adhere to various religious, social, and community norms are considered to be better prepared to face the world of marriage with all its risks. It is in line with the study by Peterson et al. (2011) that people with an authoritarian personality were more prepared to face numerous possible risks in their life events. An authoritarian personality is necessary to maintain the prevailing cultural traditions. The research also explained that in preparing for a marriage, individuals must still follow morals and culture or traditions in the family, religion, or societal norms (Peterson et al., 2011). It is in line with this research results demonstrating that the moral readiness of respondents had the highest correlation with authoritarian personality compared to other aspects of marriage readiness. These results were also corroborated by other studies explaining that personality characteristics play a role in a marital relationship which can determine marital satisfaction (Javanmard & Garegozlo, 2013). Previous research also revealed that personality and adherence to surrounding rules had a role in marital relations, one of which is an authoritarian personality.

Marriage is about one individual and the relationship between individuals or partners. Thus, the person must be able to see the partner's needs (such as social needs, economic needs, etc.) and follow religious regulations, legal regulations, and existing norms and customs in society. An individual with an authoritarian personality will tend to obey things considered dominant and influential in their life (Campo, 2017). It denotes that an individual with an authoritarian personality will abide by items that will later be related to married life.

According to Holman and Li, one of the crucial factors influencing marriage readiness is interaction with a partner (Bintari & Suprapti, 2019). The interaction is not only related to how to communicate but also requires the individual's ability to follow or adjust to the expectations and desires of the partner. Considering that marriage unites two individuals who may have different characteristics, personalities, cultures, etc., individuals who are ready to marry should also be ready to obey and accept the rules that have been set together. The attitude of obeying and accepting rules, especially from a partner or husband, is one of the characteristics or descriptions of the personality possessed by women (Peterson & Zurbriggen, 2010). How individuals express opinions and

obey the rules made can also show individual readiness for marriage. If the individual can communicate with their partner correctly, it will be easier to interact with them.

Authoritarian individuals will also be affected by how they build relationships with their partners. The more obedient a person is, the easier it will be for the individual to communicate and relate to their partner. Obedience can be regarded as a form of submissive behaviour. The characteristics raised by obedient individuals are trying to please others and not offend or hurt them, having difficulty saying "no," often saying "yes," always needing approval, and being unable to hold on to their thoughts (Sardogan et al., 2015).

Obedience is also related to interpersonal skills such as communicating and relating to partners. An obedient individual can be described as someone submissive and willing to follow the orders of their partner. When individuals have obedience, they can minimise rejection or loss in their interpersonal relationships (Sardogan et al., 2015). Interpersonal skills are one of the criteria for marriage readiness, including listening to other people, discussing problems with partners, and respecting differences (Ghalili et al., 2012). If the individual has good interpersonal skills, it will make marriage life easier. Thus the individual will be ready to get married.

In addition, the approval of the closest people can also demonstrate individual obedience. Approval from significant people such as family, relatives, and friends can also determine an individual's marriage readiness. Individuals with an authoritarian personality usually tend to have authoritarian parents, so attitudes, teachings, and decisions from parents or family will be obeyed (Primerianti et al., 2018). If an individual lacks or even does not have obedience to those closest to them, then even though there is approval, the individual cannot be said to be ready to marry.

Personal obedience to approval and direction from those closest to them is also related to the role of parents. Every parent desires to develop their children to achieve life goals, adjust themselves, and be accepted by social norms (Onyekuru, 2015). The parenting style applied also plays a role in their children's lives. The authoritative parenting style significantly correlates with marital adjustment (Onyekuru, 2015). When parents provide guidance and set a standard while still providing direction and supervision, their children are more likely to be ready for married life.

Besides an authoritarian personality, it should be noted that adjustment is an essential factor determining partner satisfaction in a marriage relationship. It must also be possessed along with marriage readiness (Rumondor, 2013). Adjustment is described as a willingness and agreement to follow changes in marriage. For example, for women, the adjustment in marriage can be illustrated by the willingness to stop working to focus on taking care of their children and household (Rumondor, 2013). It denotes that adjustment also requires obedience. In other words, it is necessary to have an authoritarian personality, namely the willingness to obey authority figures (Chien, 2016). In this context, the authority figure can be interpreted or exemplified as a husband or male partner.

This research was only aimed at women since previous research reported that women had gender characteristics

leading to authoritarianism, such as being submissive or obedient, more emotional, and not independent (Peterson & Zurbriggen, 2010). Christopher and Wojda explained that authoritarianism positively correlated with traditional gender roles requiring women to stay home after marriage. It also means that married women do not have time for other work (Peterson & Zurbriggen, 2010). This research was also conducted since no prior research had shown an authoritarian relationship between Indonesian women and marriage readiness. It exhibited that there are gender and cultural factors that influence an individual's marriage readiness. If authoritarian personality is related to marriage readiness, several things or factors bridge the two variables.

## Conclusion

### *Research Limitations and suggestions*

The use of modified and compiled instruments by researchers could be a limitation of this research. Their usage had only been tested on a limited sample or population. The instrument still must be studied and tested for use in a larger sample size and a more diverse age range. In addition, the distribution of data related to the age of emerging adult respondents was also uneven. Emerging adulthood should be in the age range of 18-25 years. However, in this study, the respondents were only 18-22. This study also did not involve male respondents, so this study's results were only focused and useful for women. Therefore, the results of this study cannot be generalised to men.

For further research, it is better to employ other sampling techniques so that the number of respondents is even in age and gender. Then, the research results can be generalised and considered for comparison. Additionally, the number and criteria for sample size also must be deliberated in future studies by adjusting the sampling population and sample conditions.

Another thing that must be considered and developed in subsequent research is related to the factors influencing similar variables to be studied—considering that this research showed that there were still other factors that could affect individual readiness to marry. Besides, further research that measures marriage readiness must deliberate the antecedents of marriage readiness and the instruments used. Future researchers must also deliberate the usage of standard instruments or those that previous studies have frequently used. It can be considered and adjusted to the background and conditions of the research sample.

### *Conclusion and Implication*

Based on this study's results, it could be concluded that the marriage readiness of a woman in the emerging adulthood phase will be influenced by various factors of readiness and obedience or her authoritarian personality. One of the critical marriage readiness was moral readiness. It also supported the influence of the authoritarian personality of an individual. Individuals who are morally prepared and obedient to the rules, culture, and habits surrounding them can be more ready to decide on marriage.

Individual obedience performed and applied in everyday life will make individuals feel more ready to marry. It includes



adapting and conducting interpersonal communication to ease the individual to perform future duties and responsibilities related to married life.

## Declarations

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### Author contributions

Yasmin Adlina Heraputri Utami, Darwaman Muttaqin, and Sri Wahyuningsih is responsible for article content by designing the study, preparing measurement tools, collecting data, analyzing data, and write this article.

### Conflict of interest

The author(s) declares there is no conflict of interest in this research.

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### Orcid ID

Darmawan Muttaqin <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0272-5657>

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