Does Identity Status Influence Marriage Readiness Among Early Adults in Bandung City?

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Abstract: This study aims to identify the influence between identity status toward marriage readiness among early adult in Bandung, West Java. This study used quantitative method. The sample selected by purposive sampling technique with 118 subjects between 21-45 years old. The instrument used to collect the data of identity status was Ego Identity Process Questionnaire (EIPQ) and marriage readiness was Personal Readiness Scale (PREP-M). The data analysis used in this research was Multiple Regression technique. Results of this study show influence between identity status toward marriage readiness with coefficient correlation of 0.399 (F=10.888, p<0.05), thereby, marriage readiness variation explained by identity status are 15.9% ($r2 = 0.159$). Then, there was a difference found between marriage readiness and identity status with sex.

1 INTRODUCTION

The process of individual development in the adult period as a whole emphasizes the formation of identity status and performs a new social role, one of which is the ability and readiness in establishing a stable intimate relationship or marriage readiness. These two criteria are known as factors that determine the individual in achieving psychological maturity in the early adulthood (Erikson, 1968, Arnett, 2004; Padilla-Walker et al., 2012). Building an intimate and stable bond with others to have a child is one of the major developmental tasks of early adulthood (Rauer et al., 2013). Individual readiness to engage in bonds is influenced by the process of identity formation, because bonding requires an image of the identity of a strong self, and a coherent identity within the self makes individuals ready for gaining and maintaining interpersonal commitment (Erikson, 1968; Adamczyk and Luyckx, 2015). Previous studies have proven the role of identity, identity formation process towards individual initiation in achieving housekeeping commitment (Arnett, 2004; Zimmer-Gembeck and Petherick, 2006).

Marcia (1966) defines identity as 'the internal self-structure which includes self-built constructs, the organization of dynamic impulses, abilities, beliefs, and individual life history'. Constitution of identity is a development towards a steady individuality or can

be called a restructuring process. This self-reconstructive process is assumed to strengthen the process of the individual ego so as to be able to deal with the various tasks of greater development. This process links all previous identification and self-image, in which earlier identity citations are processed in future perspectives to deal with. The establishment of identity as a fundamental developmental task in the transition to adulthood requires exploration of different alternatives in life before the individual is committed to the chosen device he sets (Adamczyk and Luyckx, 2015). Exploration shows several periods experienced individuals to think again, choose, and try various roles and life plans that will be lived. The exploration period is the time when the individual actively chooses various meaningful alternative alternatives. This is done by searching and exploring information or alternatives as much as possible to compare. From the results of comparison, the individual chooses or makes a commitment to which alternative is most profitable for himself in the future. Creation of commitments is the level at which individuals make choices about important issues of identity. When commitment is made, the individual can be said to have evaluated and proved that his choice is congruent to his standards, expectations, and abilities. Identification with commitment is an important component in which individuals are confident and

internalize the decisions that have been made (Marcia, 1993; Adamczyk and Luyckx, 2015).

In the process, individuals will begin without awareness of a clear identity (moratorium-no exploration and commitment). As long as the individual goes through the process of maturity, the social demands create or force the state of the crisis to ultimately make choices concerning survival, one of which is marital issues. The crisis sometimes generates a period of exploration of alternatives identity (moratorium-the existence of uncommitted exploration), after which it is expected to be able to determine the choice of life as well as further solidify the chosen identity (achievement-exploration followed by commitment). However, there are individuals who do not go through the exploration process, where they tend to internalize expectations of authority figures or social demands and norms in their respective cultures, adopt goals, roles, and beliefs about the modeled world without searching and self-determination (foreclosure-a commitment without exploration) (Marcia, 1993; Berman et al., 2011).

The high level of exploration and commitment indicates an increasingly mature or mature individual identity, the more mature the identity is associated with the high level of intimacy and individual readiness in establishing a firm commitment with others (Tesch and Whitbourne, 1982; Adamczyk and Luyckx, 2015). When adults explore and then commit to possibilities in every area of identity, they gain awareness not just about who they are but focus on their future role assignments. In other words, the process in adulthood involves the adjustment of a new social role into its identity (Crocetti et al., 2012; Shulman and Connolly, 2013).

The present study was designed to identify the entire identity dimensions which playing a role in the marriage readiness of emerging adults. Previous research has explored a number of issues in identity development and relationship beliefs and formation, but there are almost no finding research to date has include the whole dimensions of identity development and marriage readiness, it is found that much of those research has explored only specific dimensions such as achievement and variables such as intimacy, attachment, premarital, short-term beliefs and concurrent behaviors (Adamczyk and Luyckx, 2015; Årseth et al., 2009; Askham, 1984; Beyers and Seiffge-Krenke, 2010; Brzezińska and Piotrowski, 2010). Most of the previous research also conducted the study in Western cultures, which makes the present study investigate how the culture differences especially in East culture influenced the identity formation and marriage readiness of emerging adults.

2 METHODS

Participants in this study amounted to 118 respondents, who were early adults aged 21-45 years (average age = 23.4 years), unmarried, and domiciled in Bandung. 76% percent of the sample are female. Researcher use non-probability sampling that is purposive sampling, it involves selecting candidates across a broad spectrum relating to the topic of study, the idea is to focus on the precise similarity and how it relates to the topic being researched thereby achieving a greater understanding, thus, the sample is selected to include people of interest and exclude those who do not suit the purpose (Etikan et al,, 2016).

The instruments used to measure identity status are Ego Identity Process Questionnaire (EIPQ) proposed by Balistreri et al. (1995) to identify the identity status of respondents. This scale consists of 2 sub-scales of commitment and exploration, which consists of 32 statement items with 6 choices of answer categories. Cronbach's α internal reliability for the commitment dimension is 0.80 and for exploration dimensions of 0.86 with test-retest reliability of 0.90 for commitment dimensions and 0.86 for exploration dimensions (Balistreri et al., 1995). In this research Cronbach's internal reliability for the dimension of commitment of 0.76 while for the exploration dimension of 0.57.

The instrument used to measure marriage readiness is Personal Readiness Scale (PREP-M) proposed by Holman, Busby, and Larson (1989) is a measurement scale that measures the dimensions of emotional health, emotional maturity, empathic communication behavior, open communication behavior, self- disclosure communication behavior, self-esteem, drug abstinence, independence from family of origin, overall readiness for marriage, age, and religious activity. This scale consists of 36 statement items with 5 choices of answer categories. Cronbach's α internal reliability of this instrument is .86, whereas in this study is .75This research uses correlation analysis of Multiple Regression and Spearman correlation.
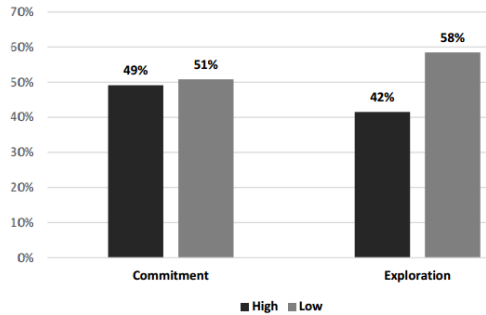
3 RESULTS

Figure 1: Identity status frequency.

Based on figure 1, then obtained data that frequency of commitment most is in low category with percentage equal to 51%, so also with frequency of exploration aspect mostly in low category with percentage equal to 58%.
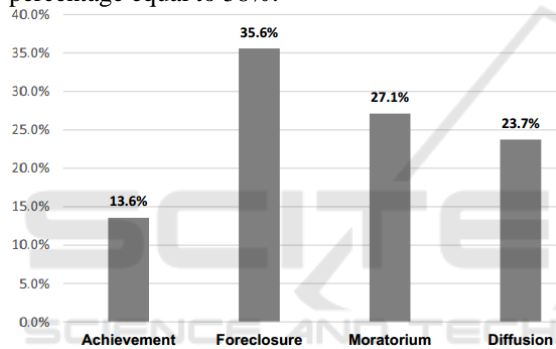

Figure 2: Identity status frequency.

The figure 2 shows the frequency of the proportion of each type of status on the identity of the respondent, which found that the most dominant or most of the respondents are of high priority foreclosure identity 35.6%, followed by the identity of the moratorium (27.1%), diffusion (23.7%), and achievement (13.6%).
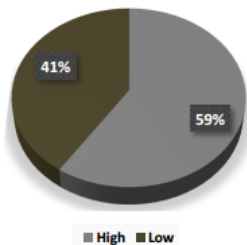

Figure 3: Frequency of marriage readiness.

Based on figure 3, the data obtained that the frequency of most marriage readiness is on the high category with a percentage of 59%.

Table 1: Correlation of Identity Status to Marriage Preparation.

Correlations			KP	SI
Spearman's rho	Marriage Readiness	Correlation Coefficient	1.000	.256**
		Sig. (2-tailed)	.	.005
	Identity Status	Correlation Coefficient	.256**	1.000
		Sig. (2-tailed)	.005	.
	N		118	118

Spearman's correlation coefficient in table 1 shows a significant relationship between the status of identity and the preparedness of marriage ($r = .256$, $p < .05$), the results indicate that the more mature individual identity is associated with the readiness of marriage in early adulthood.

Table 2: Influence of identity status on marriage readiness.

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	R Square Change	F Change
Status Identitas	.399[a]	.159	.145	.159	10.888

Table 3. Influence coefficients identity status and exploration commitment to marriage readiness.

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	T	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	36.974	13.066		2.830	.005
	Commitment	.420	.120	.317	3.495	.001
	Exploration	.564	.138	.369	4.075	.000

The results in table 2 and 3 showed that individuals who engage in exploration ($\beta = 0:42$, $p < .05$) and a commitment ($\beta = 0:56$, $p < .001$) also have the readiness to marry with a correlation coefficient ($r = 0388$) and the determinant coefficient of readiness describe marriage can have described by the identity status of 15.9% ($R^2 = .159$).

Table 4. Comparison of status of identity of men and women.

	T	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
				Lower	Upper
SI women	135.298	.000	123.667	121.85	125.48
SImen	67.479	.000	123.357	119.61	127.11

There is a difference in table 4 between the status of male identity and status of women's identity. Score identity status of women (t = 135 298, p <.001) were significantly higher than men (t = 67 479, p <.001).

Table 5. Comparison of marriage preparation in men and women.

	T	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
				Lower	Upper
KPwomen	102.084	.000	97.611	95.71	99.51
KP men	33.582	.000	97.857	91.88	103.84

There is a difference in table 5 between male marriage readiness and female identity status. Woman marriage readiness score (t = 102 084, p <.001) were significantly higher than men (t = 33 582, p <.001).

4 DISCUSSION

The findings in this study indicate that there is a significant influence between the aspects of exploration and commitment to marriage readiness. The frequency of proportion of foreclosure identity status and high marriage readiness in this study can be attributed to the high percentage of female respondents compared to men, which is in accordance with previous research results which proves that women in the early adult period tend to focus on matters of relation intimate interpersonal or marriage as well as more family oriented than men. In the early adulthood to middle adulthood, their openness to the exploration process appears to have decreased, and increased in the commitment process so it is said that this period is characterized by an increase in the foreclosed intimate relationship identity or foreclosed identity as a whole (Cramer, 2000; Cramer 2004; Arnett, 2004; Kroger, 2007; Fadjukoff et al., 2007).

From the results of comparison in this study also known that the female marriage readiness score is higher than men, this is because men in the early adult period tend not to think about marriage as well as receive less pressure to marry compared with women. Consistently, women are found to have shorter waiting periods to get married and better prepared to step into marriage than men, due to cultural demands or expectations especially in Indonesia that are more influential and focusing on women to think more about marriage than men (Whitehead and Popenoe, 2000; Larson et al., 1998; Oppenheimer, 1988).

Erikson (1968) states that men tend to solve the problem of some conflicts in identity earlier than women, but not in the domain of sexual ideology. The urge for women to think about marriage earlier is due to a tendency for eligible men as life companions to reject older women, so the likelihood of competition among women occurs significantly. This is also consistent with the ideal age trend for marriage for women today, at the age of 27 (Whitehead and Popenoe, 2000, 2004; Larson et al., 1998; Oppenheimer, 1988).

Individuals in early adulthood are expected to carry out a new social role where one of the main ones is their readiness in carrying out marriage responsibilities. Individuals with strong identity awareness provide a strong basis for the development of a mature social role, in which the capacity to commit without fear of losing his ego (Erikson, 1968; Beyers and Seiffge-Krenke, 2010). In societies with high collectively cultures, like Indonesia, individuals tend to have an interdependent self-construct. In individuals with Eastern or Asian cultures, more are found with foreclosure or diffusion identities than Western cultures, so they are considered to have an identity status which is considered less mature (less mature). Exploration represents individuality, a self-directed approach to developing self-awareness, in which the approach may be incompatible with the collectivist and interdependent Asian cultural context. It is possible that the identity of the Asian community does not so much pass through processes that require crisis, exploration, self-discovery, and commitment, but tend to be more collectively accepted, which makes the level of commitment and distress lower than in Western culture. In a communal Asian culture, the development and awareness of identity adopt a collective identity that is influenced by members of the immediate group such as family, friends, or community environment itself. It is also said that fulfilling a social role in adulthood does not necessarily indicate that the individual has maturity or identity maturity, and does not always lead to psychological independence. In other studies, it is mentioned that the social role that is fulfilled in adulthood is more associated to the age of the individual than the identity or psychological maturity, which also states that the responsibility for a particular role is determined by social norms that determine the ideal age to take on the role. This has led to limited exploration that can be done by individuals (Piotrowski et al., 2013; Yeh and Huang 1996; Markus and Kitayama, 2003; Berman et al., 2011).

5   CONCLUSION

This study proves that the development of identity plays an important role in the transition to adulthood. Specifically, the formation of identity is connected to the readiness of each individual to assume a new social role in entering the marriage stage. In addition, it is important to know the identity of what is formed when entering adulthood. In terms of marital readiness, it can be stated that horizontal marriages could not be considered equal in all adult individuals, and differences in processes and objectives must be ignored. While most important, this study reveals the effect of identity formation on individual wedding preparedness, which helps understand the implications of various belief variables about marriage, how the development that occurs during the adult stage paves the way for success in every role in adulthood. It provides important knowledge in understanding how early adulthood individuals perceive their role in marriage and in understanding how individual readiness forms in marriage during the transition to adulthood.

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