

MARRIAGE INSTITUTIONS AND SIBLING COMPETITION REVISITED: EVIDENCE FROM INDONESIA

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EXTENDED ABSTRACT

Parental involvement in many marriage markets plays a key role in female's marriage timing and spousal choice. The prevalence of arranged marriage limits a girl's decision on to whom and when to marry. Early marriage arises barriers to girls' educational attainment and reduces their bargaining power within marriage. Therefore, early married women face constrained job opportunities and spousal attributes which impact their economic well being in adulthood.

This paper analyzes sibling gender effect on characteristics of marriage, such as marriage age, educational attainment and spousal attributes for Indonesia. The data was collected by Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) in 1994, 1997, 2002-2003, 2007 and 2012. DHS datasets represent a sample of about 165000 female individuals aged 15-49 for 5 years from 33 provinces. DHS is highly relevant for our research, as it provides data on female respondents' every live births and lists all sufficient information about respondents' children. Also the cross-sectional data contains information about respondents' husbands and siblings.

The study focuses on exploring how the presence of one child influences potential marriage outcomes of another child within a family in the arranged marriage market. The primary aim of the research is to investigate the hypothesis that women, whose next youngest sibling is female, are disadvantaged in comparison with women, whose next youngest sibling is male, as their characteristics of marriage indicate lower quality. Using data from Indonesia, this paper estimates sibling structure effects on early marriage, educational attainment and groom quality. The results suggest next-sibling's impact on marriage age is statistically significant, while on education and spousal quality are less robust. Cross sister effects are especially strong in rural

areas of Indonesia where grooms are scarce and arrival rate of spouses is slow. Our findings imply that younger sisters cause earlier marriage, which may bring long lasting effects in a girl's future life, such as lower educational attainment and lower spousal occupational status.