

## Factors Associated with the Experience of Remarriage: Indonesian Family Life Survey Study

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**Abstract:** The article aims to look at the influence of the experience of remarriage based on age, gender, employment sector, and level of education. This research uses secondary data analysis of the Indonesian Family Life Survey (IFLS), namely book IIIA and book IV. The statistical test carried out is a regression test to see how far is the relationship between remarriage experience and age, gender, occupation, and education using STATA software. The research results show that factors related to the experience of remarriage, including age, gender, employment level, and education, show that education level has the most significant decreasing impact. More specifically, individuals with higher education experience a 0.11 point decrease in the likelihood of remarrying. The p-value related to this finding is 0.0001.

**Keywords:** Remarriage; Family; Indonesian Family Life Survey.

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## Introduction

Marriage is an important event in a person's life which is often considered a historical milestone in life's journey. However, in some situations, marriages can experience changes and challenges that lead to divorce. Although divorce can be a difficult step, many individuals decide to give it a second chance by remarriage. The phenomenon of remarriage has been the focus of attention in social and psychological research over the past several decades (Aguirre, 1995). Remarriage is a term that refers to the efforts of individuals who have experienced divorce to pursue a new marital relationship after a previous experience of divorce. This phenomenon arises with various dynamics including emotional, psychological, social and economic factors (Folk, 1992). Although remarriage is increasingly common, there are still many aspects that are not fully understood regarding the motivations, impacts, and factors that influence the success of remarriage (J. Hans, 2009; JD Hans, 2009; Jones, 1978; Schmiede, 2001; Wu, 1994).

This research aims to explore and deepen the phenomenon of remarriage by looking at the various aspects involved, including individual motives, factors that influence the success of remarriage, and the impact on the individuals and families involved. By better understanding the dynamics of remarriage, this research can provide valuable guidance for understanding, supporting, and helping individuals in this situation, as well as encourage the development of better policies regarding marriage and divorce.

Marriage is one of the traditional elements that is still maintained by modern society in the Global South as a method of obtaining a partner and offspring. Marriage is simultaneously the most public institution and the most intimate of all interpersonal relationships. In several countries, marriage is also regulated by policy, although in some countries there is controversy over state intervention in private affairs (Zhang & Zou, 2023). Remarriage after divorce has become an increasingly common phenomenon in the world. The world's largest proportion of remarriages are remarriages to people who have also experienced divorce (Hanna, 1981; Noda, 2009; Stampfer, 1988). An estimated 2,570 women aged nearly 30 years today have experienced divorce in their first marriage. The shift in power that governs divorce trends in Indonesia has changed the relationship between husband and wife, changes in kinship systems, and ways of economic support so that traditional patterns lead to high levels of marital instability (Heaton et al., 2001). In West Sumatra, according to Fachrina (2013), there has been a 20-40% increase in the divorce rate in West Sumatra. Meanwhile, Class I A Religious Courts recorded a divorce

rate of 580 cases up to November 2012, an increase from the previous year 2011 which was 501 divorce cases, 2010 there were 424 cases and 401 cases in 2009, and only around 10% of the lawsuit cases filed were not resolved.

Marriage has also been criticized by the feminist movement as reintroducing traditional gender roles and ignoring homosexuals as undefined. On the contrary, the marriage movement was supported in the formation of public policy by religious leaders and conservative groups (Cherlin, 2003). Marriage allows for increased marital well-being, but has no benefits for the marginal couple. The benefits of marriage require a level of marital stability, both in terms of economic stability and prerequisites for marital investment. If children are the targeted beneficiaries of pro-marriage policies, what successful state intervention does is to produce offspring (Frimmel et al., 2014). Remarriage is one solution to divorce in overcoming incompatibility from a previously less stable relationship (Martin and Bumpass, 1989) although if you bring in stepchildren it will create conflicts outside the marriage such as parenting arrangements and relationships with stepparents (Hughes and Waite, 2009; Skinner et al., 2002)

Remarriage is a solution that can help individuals overcome marriage problems (Eeden-Moorefield, 2012; Huang, 2012; Noda, 2009). Married again (Brown, 2013; Grinwald, 1997; Pakot, 2012) can help adjustment not only to find friends who can be trusted and shared with and a partner who is in a sexual relationship, but remarriage can improve economic well-being (James, 2012; Osmani, 2018). Remarriage can lead individuals to adapt better (Praptiningsih, 2016). If the act of remarriage is considered a negative behavior by some individuals, then this view is not a mistake in thinking, but rather a view that views women who remarry after divorce from an external perspective. (Chamie, 1981; Li, 2018). This view views this phenomenon as a fact that should apply, not as an internal view of remarried women looking at their personal lives.

Remarriage also triggers adjustments in terms of sexuality. Changes in patterns of contraceptive use after divorce from previous husband. However, when they enter a new marriage, they again adopt the use of contraceptives, such as injections or pills, with the aim of preventing pregnancy.

Exogamous marriage patterns are also a possibility to emerge from the interaction of several social forces such as inter-ethnic interactions, personal characteristics, encouragement from third parties, or the availability of potential partners in the

community.marriage-market (Choi & Tienda, 2017). According to (Mahdi et al., 2023), widows who chose to remarry mentioned that if they remained single, they would be subject to negative perceptions in their community about being a widow left alone. They want to avoid slander (misunderstanding) and 'gossipmongers'. The rest is also because there is pressure on him to remarry. In some cases, widows marry people already in their family or close other social networks (Choi, 2017; Higginbotham, 2008; McQuillan, 2003; Wineberg, 1998). They remarried because their sister's ex-husband died so they could get to know each other.

Remarriage makes women act strategically by mobilizing their abilities to end an unsatisfying marriage (Guirking et al 2021). After divorce, an increasing number of women are also allowed to bring some of their children with them (Kaiser, 2003). Remarriage has substantive importance for policy makers and scholars because it has many implications at both the micro and macro levels. On a micro level, remarriage (Fauve-Chamoux, 2010; Glick, 1987; Griffith, 1980; JOHNSON, 1989) is associated with improved mental and physical health and greater economic stability among those who remarry despite substantial gender differences (Espenshade, 1983). At the micro level, the dissolution of a first marriage can be seen as evidence that marriage remains a valuable institution that is always able to provide the desired social, emotional and economic benefits (Sweeney, 2010).

Divorce occurs at an average age of 35 years for men and 33 years for women while the average age of widowhood is more than 60 years for men and women (Coleman, 1998). If divorce occurs at a younger age, the benefit of remarrying is greater income support or assistance in raising children than would be possible on one's own (Sweeney, 1997). However, if done at an older age, (Breschi, 2007; Downs, 2004) What happens instead is that it costs a lot of money to take care of elderly individuals such as care. Therefore, this study aims to look at factors associated with remarriage according to comprehensive research data from the Indonesian Family Life Survey (Raut, 2019; Tama et al., 2022; UTOMO, 2021; Widyarningsih et al., 2022; Widyastuti et al., 2023).

## **Methodologists**

This research uses a secondary data analysis approach using data from the Indonesian Family Life Survey (IFLS). IFLS provides extensive information regarding

socioeconomic, health and so on both at the household and individual level (Alawiyah, 2013; Widyaningrum, 2022). Apart from that, IFLS also provides information about public facilities at the community level. IFLS is the most comprehensive survey ever conducted in Indonesia. The sample used in this research was respondents with the criteria of individual household members aged 15 years and over who had ever been married. Sociodemographic characteristics are obtained in book IIIA and book IV regarding number of times married, gender, education level, age and occupation. The research was tested using regression analysis to see the extent of the relationship between remarriage experience and age, gender, employment and education. There were 4,159 respondents after cleaning the data after merging book IIIA and book IV based on which variables were associated.

Following are the equations used in this article:

**Model 1. Regression equation addresses factors associated with early marriage.**

$$OR = \frac{\text{odds}(x+1)}{\text{odds}(x)} = \frac{\left( \frac{F(x+1)}{1-F(x+1)} \right)}{\left( \frac{F(x)}{1-F(x)} \right)} = \frac{e^{\beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + \beta_3 X_3 + \beta_4 X_4 + \beta_5 X_5 (x+1)}}{e^{\beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + \beta_3 X_3 + \beta_4 X_4 + \beta_5 X_5 x}}$$

OR : Probability of Remarriage Experience

X : Gender, Age, Occupation, Education

## Results and Discussion

Remarriage or what can also be called remarriage is one of the steps taken by individuals to adjust after divorce. People who decide to remarry because they cannot face loneliness and failure (Jannah, 2013). Other reasons include the desire to have another companion, to share responsibility for taking care of the household and raising children, to provide new parents to the child and to fulfill sexual needs.

The high divorce rate has resulted in many people remarrying (remarriage). The belief in living a better life after divorce, especially finding a new partner, is one of the factors that influences women's determination to divorce. Women are more optimistic about a better future and will have more satisfying relationships with other family

members after divorce. Research conducted by Goode (in Anggriana, 2015) states that there are differences in divorce rates between upper class people, both in terms of employment, income and education. The large number of divorces has resulted in the experience of widows and widowers also increasing. In fact, remarriage is also practiced more than twice, as explained in the following table.

### ***Community Marriage Experience***

Table 1. Community Marriage Experience

<b>Married Experience</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>One time</b>	3,883	85.93
<b>2 times</b>	512	11.33
<b>More than twice</b>	124	2.74
<b>Total</b>	4,519	100

*Source: 2014 IFLS data*

The table shows that the intensity of remarriage is still quite high in Indonesia. This article will examine remarriage experiences based on individual characteristics, namely age, gender, employment sector and education level. This paper uses a regression model to examine individual characteristics influencing the remarriage experience.

Table 2. Remarriage Experience by Individual Characteristics

	<b>Model 1</b>	<b>Model 2</b>	<b>Model 3</b>
	Coefficient (p value)	Coefficient (p value)	Coefficient (p value)
<b>Age</b>	0.017 (0.0001)	0.174 (0.0001)	0.016 (0.0001)
<b>Gender: Woman</b>		-0.26 (0.36)	-0.050 (0.092)
<b>Job Sector: Informal</b>			0.021 (0.098)
<b>Level of education: Currently</b>			-0.80 (0.0001)
<b>Tall</b>			-0.11 (0.0001)
<b>Constant</b>	0.571	0.592	0.680
<b>n</b>	4,519	4,519	4,444
<b>R2</b>	0.1279	0.1281	0.1366

*Source: 2014 IFLS data*

Note: Male, formal sector, and low education level as reference

The table above is a regression model of remarriage experience based on individual characteristics, including age, gender, employment sector and education level. In model 1, it can be seen that age is associated with remarriage experience, meaning that every year increasing in age will increase remarriage experience by 0.017 points with a constant of 0.571. Model 1 has a sample experience of 4,519 people with the assumption that 12.79% of ages can simultaneously explain the remarriage experience. Meanwhile, in model 2, it can be seen that the remarriage experience is associated with age and gender. Remarriage experience which is associated with age states that for every 1 year increase in age the remarriage experience increases by 0.174 points by controlling gender at a constant rate of 0.592 with the same sample and 12.81% simultaneously, age can explain the remarriage experience.

In model 3, the level of medium education experienced a decrease of 0.80 points compared to low education, and high education also experienced a decrease of 0.11 from low education by controlling other individual characteristic variables (age, gender and employment sector) with constant 0.655 with a sample experience of 4,444 people and 13.66% simultaneously the individual characteristics above can explain the remarriage experience. Research from Muslimah (2012) revealed that divorce encourages women to remarriage to meet biological, economic, ethical, moral needs, as well as factors for maintaining children's education. Goode in Anggriana (2015) also stated that remarriage is based on individual characteristics such as economic factors, social class and level of education.

The table below tries to describe the regression model for each variable, whether continuous, binary or categorical, to clearly explain the regression of remarriage experience based on age, gender, employment sector and education level.

### ***Remarriage Experience by Age***

Table 3. Remarriage Experience Based on Age

Remarriage Experience	Coef	S.E	p value	95%CI	
Age	0.017	0.0006	0.0001	0.015	0.18
_cons	0.57	0.02	0.0001	0.52	0.61
<i>Source: 2014 IFLS data</i>			n= 4,519	R-squared= 0.1279	

Based on table 3, it can be seen that every 1 year increase in an individual's age is associated with an increase in remarriage experience of 0.017 points with observation experience of 4,519 people and 12.79% of simultaneous ages can explain the remarriage experience. This is in line with Khumas (2015) that divorce or remarriage can occur based on the degree of a person's stability in carrying out a certain behavior with serious efforts. Several factors that support both parties in deciding to remarry at an old age include: support provided by family and children, a happy first marriage experience, an understanding of the characteristics and behavioral patterns expected from a prospective partner, and the desire to remarry for basic love and the need for togetherness. Remarriage involves the process of building a husband-wife relationship with a new partner who was previously married, so that adaptation to the new partner becomes a necessity in living life together. There are several factors that encourage individuals to remarry at an old age, namely: a) Biological factors, b) Ethical factors, morality and social norms, c) Economic (financial) needs factors, d) Social status factors, e) Maintenance factors and children's education, f) Children's maintenance and education factors. In the context of satisfaction in remarriage, women tend to feel greater satisfaction than men. This possibility is because women tend to focus more on achieving satisfaction in marriage than men (Santrock, 2002). When someone enters the stage of old age, there are four common forms of stereotypes that occur. First, old age is considered an unpleasant time. Second, old age is often associated with negative views that reinforce the stereotype that elderly people are not happy. Third, elderly people are often considered to have a weakened, worn-out physical and mental condition, may experience memory problems, walk bent over, and have difficulty interacting with other people. Fourth, elderly individuals are considered minority members in society, experience changes in roles as they age, find it difficult to adapt, and have a desire to be young again (Partini, 2010).

### ***Remarriage Experience by Gender***

Table 4. Remarriage Based on Gender

Remarriage Experience	Coef	S.E	pvalue	95%CI	
<b>Gender:</b>					
<b>Woman</b>	0.18	0.02	0.0001	0.128	0.24
<b>_cons</b>	1.15	0.06	0.0001	1.14	1.17

Source: 2014 IFLS data

n= 4,519 R-squared = 0.0087

Note: Male gender as reference



Based on table 4, it can be seen that women experienced an increase in remarriage experience of 0.18 greater than men with observation experience of 4,519 people and 0.84% simultaneously, gender can explain the remarriage experience.

The higher intensity of remarriage among women than men suggests that Slowly, widowed women try to build a positive image for themselves and they want to make their children happy. Remarriage or what is called remarriage is an option to improve married life and to create new goals in marriage (Muslimah, 2016). Some of the reasons that encourage women to remarry include gaining love and friendship, fulfilling biological, economic, ethical, moral and social norm needs, maintaining or educating children and gaining social status. However, on the other hand, society is more accepting of men's remarriage than women (Valee & Nazery, 2016). The decision to remarry does not mean it does not involve risks (Zulfiana, 2013). Those who choose to remarry will face more complex challenges than those who marry for the first time (Anita & Khairulyadi, 2018). This challenge tends to be more difficult for women than men, even if both decide to remarry. Society still has difficulty accepting marriages where widows marry single men. On the other hand, when a widower marries a girl, this is often considered normal (Imron, 2009).

In addition, there is often resistance from a man's family to having a daughter-in-law who is a widow, especially if the man is still single (Pawitasari, 2015). This situation becomes more complicated, especially if the woman who remarries also brings children into the marriage. When a woman decides to remarry, she will be faced with various questions, such as whether her children will accept the marriage, and whether her new status will improve or even worsen her situation (Valee & Nazery, 2016). Remarriage is not a simple step for a widow, especially if she has children from a previous marriage. Preliminary data collected by researchers on widows who chose to remarry a single man revealed that they faced various challenges in deciding to remarry. These challenges include changes that need to be made in the context of their new marriage as well as adjustments so that she and the children she carries can be accepted by her husband's family. (Maharani & Nurchayati, 2022).

### ***Job Based Remarriage Experience***

Table 5. Remarriage Experience by Occupation

<b>Remarriage Experience</b>	<b>Coef</b>	<b>S.E</b>	<b>pvalue</b>	<b>95%CI</b>	
<b>Formal sector</b>	0.11	0.013	0.0001	0.084	0.135
<b>_cons</b>	1.10	0.020	0.0001	0.965	1,045
<i>Source: 2014 IFLS data</i>		<b>n= 4,517</b>		<b>R-squared = 0.015</b>	

Note: informal employment sector as reference

Based on table 5, it can be seen that the formal employment sector experienced an increase in remarriage of 0.11 greater than the informal employment sector with an observation experience of 4,517 people and 1.5% simultaneously the employment sector can explain the remarriage experience. From the data above it can be concluded that for formal workers, they are 0.11 more likely to remarry than informal workers. This is also possible because formal work has a much more stable income than informal work. Formal workers also have health insurance covered by the company so that it will increase security in the household. Even though it is very easy to enter the informal sector, working in the informal sector has a small business scale and very small salaries even though it plays a very important role in absorbing the workforce.(Putra & Sudibia, 2018). Financial adjustments are an important aspect of marriage. This factor plays a significant role in how adults adjust in their marriages, as the level of adequacy or lack of money can have a major impact on adaptation in the relationship. Financial issues also have the potential to create conflict between husband and wife. Some wives may choose to work as an effort to solve financial problems that arise (Hurlock, 2014). The remarriage rate is higher in the informal employment sector compared to the formal sector. This happens because the formal sector applies stricter rules regarding remarriage, especially for the State Civil Service and TNI/POLRI.

### ***Remarriage Experience Based on Education Level***

Table 6. Remarriage Based on Education Level

<b>Remarriage Experience</b>	<b>Coef</b>	<b>S.E</b>	<b>pvalue</b>	<b>95%CI</b>	
<b>Level of education</b>					
<b>Currently</b>	-0.14	0.014	0.0001	-0.17	-0.11
<b>Tall</b>	-0.16	0.018	0.0001	-0.19	-0.12
<b>_cons</b>	1.24	0.009	0.0001	1.22	1.26
<i>Source: 2014 IFLS data</i>		<b>n= 4,446</b>		<b>R-squared = 0.029</b>	

Note: low education as a reference

Based on table 6, it can be seen that if low education is used as a reference, the remarriage experience of medium education is 0.14 lower and higher education is 0.16 points lower with an observation experience of 4,446 people and 0.29% simultaneously. Education can explain the remarriage experience if controlled. with low education.

This is in line with Khumas (2015) that with a high level of education, a person is expected to be more successful in maintaining family harmony so that those who have a high level of education are expected to be able to maintain the integrity of their family. With higher education, individuals are expected to be able to have better knowledge to be able to take risks with a high intensity of remarriage.

### ***Remarriage Experience by Age and Gender***

Table 7. Remarriage Based on Age and Gender

<b>Remarriage Experience</b>	<b>Coef</b>	<b>S.E</b>	<b>pvalue</b>	<b>95%CI</b>	
<b>Age</b>	0.17	0.0007	0.0001	0.16	0.018
<b>Woman</b>	-0.26	0.029	0.361	-0.083	0.03
<b>_cons</b>	0.592	0.033	0.0001	0.526	0.658
<i>Source: 2014 IFLS data</i>		<b>n= 4,519</b>	<b>R-squared= 0.128</b>		

Note: men as reference

Based on table 7, it can be seen that for every 1 year increase in age, if controlled by the gender variable, there is an increase of 0.17 points if it is associated with an increase in remarriage experience, then it can also be seen that each woman experiences a decrease of 0.26 points for remarriage than men if controlled. with the age variable with observation experience of 4,519 people and 12.8% can simultaneously explain the remarriage experience.

The older a person is, the decision to remarry has different goals. Nowadays remarriage late in life is more acceptable than in the past. Hurlock (2002) concluded that remarriage among adults at an advanced age is now more common and more widely accepted by society than in the past. This is due to changes in social views towards marriage at an older age, which is now more tolerated, especially when a couple loses their partner through divorce.

Table 8. Remarriage Based on Age, Gender, Occupation, and Education Level

Remarriage Experience	Coef	S.E	pvalue	95%CI	
Age	0.016	0.0007	0,000	0.014	0.017
Gender: Woman	-0.050	0.29	0.092	-0.108	0.008
Work: Informal	0.02	0.012	0.098	-0.0039	0.046
Education: Currently Tall	-0.08 -0.11	0.13 0.01	0.0001 0.0001	-0.10 -0.15	0.053 -0.08
_cons	0.680	0.03	0.0001	0.60	0.75

Source: 2014 IFLS data

n= 4,444

R-squared = 0.1366

Note: male, formal sector, and low education as reference

Based on table 8, it can be seen that for every 1 year increase in age, if controlled by the variables gender, occupation and education, there is an increase of 0.016 points if it is associated with an increase in remarriage experience with an observation experience of 4,444 people and 13.66% can simultaneously explain the remarriage experience based on variables. which is controlled in the model above. This is in line with White (1990) who states that the factors that influence divorce and remarriage are indirect factors, for example parents' marriage experience, age at marriage, education level and employment status. These factors can increase the risk of divorce and remarriage (Cano, 2009; Kurosu, 2007; T. Roberts, 1989; van Eeden-Moorefield, 2007).

## Conclusion

In looking at the prevalence between education and remarriage, post-secondary higher education can influence marital stability, especially in understanding the impact of education quality (Bernard-Maugiron, 2011; Furstenberg, 1980; Higginbotham, 2013; Holtermann, 2020; Nozawa, 2015; Pettay, 2014). In contrast to the stable education group, college graduates were found to have more stable careers, higher incomes, as well as marrying at a later age, fewer children, and happier and more stable families. (Shen, 2018). Higher education for women will result in different marriages, a woman's helplessness in her marriage will cause her to experience divorce and not rely on marriage as a determining factor in meeting economic needs. A better educated wife will negotiate a balanced division of housework and childcare. People who are highly educated are also

better able to maintain their marriages and have higher barriers to divorce (Ganong, 1991; Hiyoshi, 2015; Hu, 2018; Lazarus, 2017; TW Roberts, 1985; Tropf, 1984).

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