

***The role of Religious Leaders, Community Leaders and Parents in Preventing
Child Marriage in Tuban Regency***

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ABSTRACT

Child marriage remains a complex social issue with significant impacts on health, education, and family well-being. Despite regulations establishing a minimum legal age for marriage, the practice persists in several regions, including Kabupaten Tuban. In religious communities, religious leaders, community leaders, and parents play a strategic role in shaping social norms related to the prevention of child marriage. This study aimed to analyze the roles of these key actors, the forms of collaboration among them, and the challenges encountered in preventing child marriage. This study employed a qualitative method with a phenomenological approach. Six informants comprising religious leaders, community leaders, and parents from both rural and urban areas were selected purposively. Data were collected through in-depth interviews and analyzed thematically until data saturation was achieved. The findings indicate that religious leaders contribute through normative and moral guidance, community leaders through social advocacy, and parents as the most influential actors through parenting practices and supervision of adolescents' social interactions. However, collaboration among these actors remains informal and insufficiently coordinated. Strengthening structured and sustainable community-based collaboration is therefore essential to effectively prevent child marriage.

Keywords: *Child Marriage, Prevention, Community Role, Phenomenology*