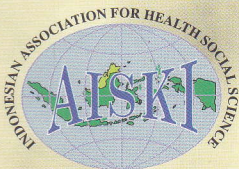


BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

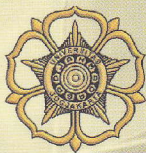
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December 7-11, 1998
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**THE 4TH ASIA-PACIFIC SOCIAL SCIENCE AND MEDICINE
CONFERENCE**

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Retrospective and Prospective Discourse**

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Abstracts

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THE VARIOUS CONSEQUENCES OF CHILD MARRIAGE

Sri Handayani Hanum

In the constitution, it is proved in the article on marriage that the age limit for a women to get married is 16 years (UUP No.1/74) and 19 years (PMA No.2/1990). However in the community, there are still many cases of women who get married below these ages. Through the qualitative descriptive analysis method, this research explores various indicators which are related with the marriage of women below 18 years old (By Bogue, the marriage before 18 years classified as child marriage) and also expresses various consequential aspects which follow such marriages. The research had been conducted on two Javanese transmigrant communities in North Bengkulu Regency, from July 1995 to July 1996.

The results of this research indicates that most marriage below 18 years old are a result of the pairing done by parents (arranged marriage). Children (victims) almost do not have any say or freedom in determining their partners at all. The cultural values which consider only menstruation and body size as a main indicators of adulthood became a stimulant factor to the persistence of child marriage cases. The social pressure especially *pakewuh* tradition (reluctant feeling of the parents) to reject the proposal to their daughter is also become another stimulate factor. It occurs in many cases that child marriage show a situation which has no advantage for women such as their education, work participation, mobility, and social activities. To become a mother at the age below 18 years old will certainly place a women in a position of multiple insubordination. First, she is married under the domination of parent's power and role. Second, by marriage with a man that is much older than her, the women ethically (*tatakrama kejawen*) is positioned under the domination of her husband. Therefore, she became powerless. Third, she is economically to dependent upon her husband caused by her inadequate knowledge and skill.

Women who are given out for marriage at ages below 18 years often experienced high emotional pressures, such as husband syndrome, nervous, feeling sorry, and apologetic in the early of her marriage. This high emotional pressures is expressed by refusal acts to live with her husband and emergence of frightened and forced feeling in her first sexual activity. The regret that she had been married in the young age and the instability of her household are the serious problem found in this research. It also puts the health of both the mother and the baby at stake, which is mostly reflected by high rate problem during pregnancy and giving birth as a consequence of such marriages.