

# Family Functioning

*by Elin Natal*

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## Family Functioning, Peers Support, and Future Orientation in Marriage in Teenagers

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### Abstract

Adolescents' future orientation toward marriage refers to the subjective ideas they form about the marriage they want in the future, including how they think, explore, and plan their lifetime development journey concerning marriage. Teenagers who lack future orientation in marriage frequently engage in promiscuity, unhealthy romantic relationships, and early marriages, which often result in divorce. For their future marriage to be successful, adolescents must develop a future-oriented marriage. This study examines how family function and peers support can predict the development of future orientation in marriage in class XII students of private schools in Tangerang City. This research explains the essential components needed in preparing for future orientation marriage, including romantic relationships. Through the convenience sampling technique, 212 students took part in the study. This study used three questionnaires with good validity and reliability: The McMaster Family Assessment Device (MMFAD), Peers Support, and The Prospective Life Course (PLC) Questionnaire – Future Marriage and Family. With hierarchical regression analysis techniques, this study shows that family functioning, peers support, and gender are correlated with future orientation-marriage. Students who believe that their families have healthy and effective structures, organizations, and patterns of interaction between family members are better able to develop a more focused and clearer subjective picture of the future in the field of marriage. This study also shows that students who receive high peers support are more successful in developing a clear and focused future orientation marriage. Based on this research, we suggest examining the future orientation-marriage to a wider target population using a random sampling technique so the result will have a broader generalization.

**Keywords:** adolescent, family functioning, future orientation in marriage, peers support

### Abstrak

*Orientasi masa depan remaja terhadap pernikahan mengacu pada gagasan subjektif yang mereka bentuk mengenai pernikahan yang mereka inginkan di masa depan, termasuk bagaimana mereka berpikir, mengeksplorasi, dan merencanakan perjalanan perkembangan seumur hidup terkait pernikahan. Remaja yang kurang memiliki orientasi masa depan dalam perkawinan sering kali melakukan pergaulan bebas, hubungan romantis yang tidak sehat, dan pernikahan dini yang seringkali berujung pada perceraian. Agar pernikahannya di masa depan berhasil, remaja harus mengembangkan pernikahan yang berorientasi masa depan. Penelitian ini mengkaji bagaimana function dan peers support dapat memprediksi perkembangan orientasi masa depan dalam pernikahan pada siswa kelas XII sekolah swasta di Kota Tangerang. Penelitian ini menjelaskan komponen-komponen penting yang diperlukan dalam mempersiapkan pernikahan orientasi masa depan, termasuk hubungan romantis. Melalui teknik convenience sampling, 212 siswa mengikuti penelitian. Penelitian ini menggunakan tiga kuesioner dengan validitas dan reliabilitas yang baik: The McMaster Family Assessment Device (MMFAD), Peers Support, dan The Prospective Life Course (PLC) Questionnaire – Future Marriage and Family. Dengan teknik hierarchical regression analysis, penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa family functioning, peers support, dan gender berkorelasi dengan orientasi pernikahan di masa depan. Siswa yang percaya bahwa keluarganya memiliki*

struktur, organisasi, dan pola interaksi antar anggota keluarga yang sehat dan efektif akan lebih mampu mengembangkan gambaran subjektif yang lebih fokus dan jelas tentang masa depan di bidang pernikahan. Penelitian ini juga menunjukkan bahwa siswa yang mendapat peers support yang tinggi lebih berhasil mengembangkan orientasi masa depannya pernikahan yang jelas dan terfokus. Berdasarkan penelitian ini, kami menyarankan untuk mengkaji orientasi pernikahan masa depan pada populasi sasaran yang lebih luas dengan menggunakan teknik random sampling sehingga hasilnya memiliki generalisasi yang lebih luas.

**Kata kunci:** dukungan teman sebaya, keberfungsian keluarga, orientasi masa depan dalam pernikahan, remaja

## Introduction

Santrock (2019) explained that the main task of adolescence is preparing for adulthood. Adolescents are expected to be able to make important life decisions, such as choosing academic and career paths, social environment and networking, and marriage and family. An adolescent experiences physical, hormonal, and psychological changes during their transitional stage. During this stage, they acquire formal operational thought processes, abstract thinking, the ability to foresee the effects of their actions, a sense of identity, social engagement, peers interaction, and an awareness of their sexuality (Hegde et al., 2022). Adolescents' sexual curiosity is the foundation for additional romantic and sexual encounters. However, due to their continued cognitive and emotional immaturity, adolescents may engage in sexual behavior that is socially unacceptable (Hegde et al., 2022). Teenagers are prone to risky sexual behavior when they have unclear images of future marriage, including romantic relationships (McCabe & Barnett, 2000; Latif & Zulherawan, 2019). A survey on a particular group of teenagers under 18 proved that most had already engaged in premarital sex (Andayani, 2005). In addition, previous studies (McCabe & Barnett, 2000; Latif & Zulherawan, 2019) also found that adolescents who did not prepare themselves for future marriage well enough tend to be involved in an unhealthy romantic relationship, risky sexual behavior, and extramarital pregnancy that generally leads to early marriage.

In reality, early marriage often ends up with divorce. According to the survey conducted by BPSRI (2017), between 2013 and 2015, women aged 20 – 24 who got married before they turned 18 were more likely to get divorced than their peers after turning 18. Other studies have also found a significant relationship between early marriage and divorce in young couples that results from a lack of preparation and emotional immaturity of the couple (Badruzaman, 2021; Sunawara, 2021; Supriyadi, 2021; Yumarni & Suhartini, 2019). Marital success is highly related to life satisfaction (Kasapoglu & Yabanigul, 2018; Naess et al., 2014). However, building a successful marriage is not easy (McCabe & Barnett, 2000). Individuals have to prepare themselves as early as possible, even from childhood and reaching the peak in adolescence (Papalia et al., 2014; Santrock, 2019; Seginer, 2009). This preparation encompasses developing images of the ideal marriage/family they desire in the future, including romantic relationships and desirable partner qualities (Seginer, 2009).

Conceptually, future orientation is a result of interaction between three components: (1) motivational, which refers to factors that encourage individuals to think about their future; (2) cognitive representation, which refers to the clarity of content or future schemes people are looking forward to achieving and risks they aim to avoid; and (3) behavioral, which refers to behavior or habit that have been explored, chosen according to personal plans, and carried out with commitment (Seginer, 2009). Adolescents with future orientation abilities understand how their behavior in the present time impacts their future and consider the consequences of their current actions. According to Seginer (2009), future orientation is the images humans develop regarding the future, which encompasses thinking, exploring, and planning their lifespan developmental journey. Individuals' images would also guide their developmental direction (Bandura, 2001; Seginer, 2003). Therefore, future orientation needs to be nurtured in adolescents concerning their future success (Trommsdorff, 1979, 1983; Nurmi, 1989, 1991; Seginer et al., 2004; Seginer, 2009). Future orientation in teenagers can be defined as a foresight about

the career path that will be taken and the family that will be built once they enter adulthood (McCabe & Barnett, 2000; Johnson et al., 2014). In this study, we focus on future orientation in marriage.

Future orientation does not appear out of nowhere in adolescents, but instead is influenced by many factors, such as family atmosphere and peers relationship. Family atmosphere is formed through a parent-children relationship that is depicted by intimacy, flexibility, and how the family members interact and communicate with each other, defined by Olson et al. (2019) as family functioning (Seginer, 2009). Family functioning is how healthy and effectively a family interacts and plays their respective roles to achieve the family's function, that is fulfilling needs and supporting the development and welfare of each family member. The family function includes six dimensions: problem-solving, communication, role, affective responsiveness, affective involvement, and behavioral control (Epstein et al., 2005). Family functioning potentially reduces risky sexual behavior in teenagers. Parent-child communication, both in terms of quantity and content, supports the development of sexual decision-making during adolescence (Bianchi et al., 2019). In line with earlier research (Bunchookittiyot et al., 2019; McCabe & Barnett, 2000), this study examines how family functioning affects adolescents' future marital orientation.

Aside from family functioning, relationships with peers also affect the development of future orientation in teenagers (Seginer, 2009). During adolescence, individuals start to detach themselves from dependence on their parents and spend more time with their same-age peers (Santrock, 2019; Papalia et al., 2014; Feldman, 2018). As stated by Santrock (2019), peers could be defined as children or teenagers who have a similar age or level of maturity as someone. For adolescents, peers play a central part in providing support and socialization, giving information, encouraging cognitive skills and ideas development, evaluating their attitudes and beliefs, and sharpening their social comprehension and skills (Seginer, 2009). Feldman (2018) mentioned that one type of social support for students is peers support. Peers support is a support given to individuals by their peers group in the form of physical and psychological comfort to feel loved, cared for, and respected as a social group (Sarafino & Smith, 2011). This type of support consists of (1) emotional support, which refers to empathy, attention, concern, and a positive attitude; (2) instrumental support, which refers to direct help in the form of action; (3) informational support, which refers to advice, directions, suggestions, or feedbacks given; and (4) companionship support, which refers to the friends' availability to spend time with the individual (Sarafino & Smith, 2011). In light of previous studies (Sica et al., 2015; Lo-oh, 2017; Putra, 2015; Dordi, 2018; Hendayani & Abdullah, 2018), this research also intends to examine how peers support plays a role in predicting adolescents' future orientation.

Despite the number of research that has been done about future orientation, most of them are only focused on Western culture (Seginer, 2009), lower-middle socioeconomic class (McCabe & Barnett, 2000; Johnson et al., 2004; Gao & Chan, 2015), and those who are exposed to high-risk environment (Laftman et al., 2019; Holmes & Kim-Spoon, 2016; So et al., 2016; Bunchookittiyot et al., 2019). Furthermore, the domains often studied only center around education (So et al., 2016; Gao & Chan, 2015) and career (Penick & Jepsen, 1992; Johnson et al., 2004). Therefore, this study investigates the correlation between family functioning, peers support, and future orientation in the marriage domain in teenagers with different characteristics, specifically those with non-western cultural backgrounds, upper-middle socioeconomic status, and minimum exposure to risky environments. Correspondingly, the subject of this study is twelfth graders from "X" Private High School, Tangerang City. Twelfth graders are chosen as subjects with the consideration that they already entered the last stage of adolescence before they pursue higher education and start to think about marriage.

Based on the previous theories explained above, this research hypothesized that there is a positive relationship between family functioning, peers support, and future orientation in marriage in twelfth-grade students of "X" Private High School in Tangerang City. To be precise, there are two hypotheses postulated for this study, which are: (1) There is a positive relationship between family functioning and future orientation in marriage; (2) There is a positive relationship between peers support and future orientation in marriage.

## Methods

This study was started by asking permission to obtain data from students from the headmaster of "X" Private High School in Tangerang City. After being permitted, we sent a research questionnaire compiled in a Google Form link to the school officials, which was then forwarded to 49 students for validity and reliability testing purposes. Subsequently, we collected data using the same instrument for students who had not participated in the validity and reliability test. The instrument itself was equipped with informed consent that includes the purpose of the study, agreement to participate without any enforcement, consequences from each parties, and a thank-you note for participating. The data collection was carried out in 2 weeks.

This study's quantitative design uses a correlational method to determine the direction and strength of the relationship between variables and how far a variance of one variable relates to another variable based on the correlation coefficient. The target population of this research is twelve-grade students from "X" Private High School in Tangerang City. The participants were recruited by using the convenience sampling method. From the target population of approximately 400 twelve-grade students, 251 students participated in the research. 222 students agreed to participate and finished filling out the questionnaire, whereas 29 students did not agree and did not proceed to fill out the questionnaire. From 222 participants, there were 10 outliers, which were then omitted for not fulfilling the criteria. Hence, the study was carried out on only 212 eligible samples.

The participants' ages ranged from 16-18 years old, while the majority of participants were 17 years old (81,6%). More than half of the participants are female (54.2%). Most participants have parents whose income exceeds Rp. 15.000.000,00 per month (67,9%), and the parents mostly hold bachelor's degrees (44.3% for the fathers, 45.3% for the mothers). A more detailed description can be found in Table 1.

**Table 1.** Participants' Sociodemographic Characteristics Distribution

Sociodemographic characteristics	n	%	
Age	< 16	4	1.9
	16	28	13.2
	17	173	81.6
	18	7	3.3
	19	0	.0
	> 19	0	.0
Sex	Male	97	45.8
	Female	115	54.2
Parents' Income	≤ Rp. 15.000.000,00	68	32.1
	Rp. 16.000.000,00 - Rp. 30.000.000,00	66	31.1
	Rp. 31.000.000,00 - Rp. 45.000.000,00	26	12.3
	Rp. 46.000.000,00 - Rp. 60.000.000,00	20	9.4
	Rp. 61.000.000,00 - Rp. 75.000.000,00	12	5.7
	≥ 76.000.000,00	20	9.4

Sociodemographic characteristics		n	%
Father's Occupation	Private Companies Employee, Private School Teacher/Lecturer	77	36.3
	Civil Servant, Public School Teacher/Lecturer, Police Officer, Army Officer	7	3.3
	Professionals (Doctor, Lawyer, etc.)	3	1.4
	Entrepreneur	57	26.9
	Others	68	32.1
Mother's Occupation	Private Companies Employee, Private School Teacher/Lecturer	41	19.3
	Civil Servant, Public School Teacher/Lecturer, Police Officer, Army Officer	2	.9
	Professionals (Doctor, Lawyer, etc.)	2	.9
	Entrepreneur	22	10.4
	Others	145	68.4
Father's Education	Primary school	0	.0
	Middle school	4	1.9
	High school	33	15.6
	Bachelor's degree	94	44.3
	Master's degree	22	10.4
	Doctoral degree	5	2.4
	Others	54	25.5
Mother's Education	Primary school	1	.5
	Middle school	4	1.9
	High school	41	19.3
	Bachelor's degree	96	45.3
	Master's degree	12	5.7
	Doctoral degree	0	.0
	Others	58	27.4

This study involves three instruments to measure research variables. Family functioning is measured by using The McMaster Family Assessment Device. Peers support is measured with an instrument developed by Susanti and Wulanyani (2019) based on Sarafino and Smith's (2011) theory. Future orientation in marriage is measured by using The Prospective Life Course (PLC) Questionnaire – Future Marriage and Family (Seginer, 2009). All instruments use a 4-point Likert Scale format; for positive items, 1 = Highly Disagree; 2 = Disagree; 3 = Agree; 4 = Highly Agree, and vice versa for negative items. The validity testing with Pearson Correlation result showed that the  $r$  value for each item is greater than .3, meaning that the instruments are valid, except for 5 items in PLC Questionnaire

with  $r < 0,3$ , which were omitted for this study. Consecutively, the reliability testing by Cronbach's Alpha ( $\alpha$ ) showed a result of  $\alpha > .70$  for all items, which means they are reliable.

The hypothesis is tested using a hierarchical regression statistical technique, which involves family functioning and peer support as independent variables and future orientation as dependent variables. Meanwhile, sex, the parent's income, the father's education, and the mother's education are considered covariates.

## Results and Discussion

### Result

Table 2. shows that the mean of FF, PS, and FOM surpassed the median value of the Likert Scale used in the study, which is 2.50. Furthermore, twelve-grade students of "X" Private High School in Tangerang City have high levels of family functioning apprehension ( $M = 2.97$ ;  $SD = .51$ ), meaning respondents believe their family has a healthy and effective structure, organization, and interaction pattern. Participants also have a high degree of apprehension towards peers support ( $M = 3.03$ ,  $SD = .37$ ), which means that they believe their peers provide the social support that they need in terms of physical and psychological comfort, so they feel loved, cared for, and valued as members of a social group. In addition, participants have high future orientation in marriage ( $M = 2.75$ ,  $SD = .46$ ), which translates to a clear and organized subjective image of their future in the marriage domain, which includes thinking of, exploring, and planning their life developmental journey.

Table 2. Sample Responses to the Rolnow Survey

Variable	N	Min.	Max.	M	SD
Family Functioning (FF)	212	1.17	4.00	2.97	.51
Peers Support (PS)	212	2.00	4.00	3.03	.37
Future Orientation in Marriage (FOM)	212	1.26	3.95	2.75	.46

From Table 3. we can conclude that sex, as a covariate in this study, plays a significant role in predicting future orientation in marriage ( $b = -4.219$ ,  $t(205) = -3.558$ ,  $\rho = .000 < \alpha = .05$ ). Meanwhile, the other covariates, which are parents' income ( $b = -.102$ ,  $t(205) = -.299$ ,  $\rho = .765 > \alpha = .05$ ), father's education ( $b = .219$ ,  $t(205) = .468$ ,  $\rho = .640 > \alpha = .05$ ), and mother's education ( $b = -.376$ ,  $t(205) = -.768$ ,  $\rho = .443 > \alpha = .05$ ), do not exert a significant impact to the study variables. Furthermore, the analysis resulted in the determination coefficient of all four covariates (Adjusted  $R^2 = .047$ ), meaning that the four covariates explain future orientation in marriage by 4.7%. In contrast, the rest is explained by other variables.

Moreover, family functioning is proven to significantly predict future orientation in marriage ( $b = .409$ ,  $t(205) = 4.016$ ,  $\rho = .000 < \alpha = .05$ ) and determination coefficient ( $R^2$  Change = .126), meaning that family functioning can explain future orientation in marriage by 12.6%. Aside from that, family functioning and all covariates could predict future orientation in marriage with a determination coefficient (Adjusted  $R^2 = .171$ ), which means family functioning and covariates can explain future orientation in marriage by 17.1%. Peers support also has a significant role in predicting future orientation in marriage ( $b = .254$ ,  $t(205) = 2.731$ ,  $\rho = .007 < \alpha = .05$ ) and determination coefficient ( $R^2$  Change = .028), meaning that peers support can explain 2.8% of future orientation in marriage. Besides, family functioning, peers support, and covariates predict future orientation in marriage with a determination coefficient (Adjusted  $R^2 = .197$ ), which means peers support, family functioning, and all covariates together can explain future orientation in marriage by 19.7%.

**Table 3.** Hierarchical Regression with Covariates (SX, PI, FE, ME) Results

Mode	Adjusted R Square	R Square Change	Variable	Unstandardized Coefficients		
				B	T	Sig.
1	.047	.065	Constant	54.178***	30.718	.000
			SX (Cov 1)	-4.432***	-3.764	.000
			PI (Cov 2)	.153	.414	.680
			FE (Cov 3)	.153	.300	.764
			ME (Cov =4)	-.130	-.246	.806
2	.171	.126	Constant	36.418***	10.075	.000
			SX (Cov 1)	-3.062**	-2.723	.007
			PI (Cov 2)	-.038	-.111	.912
			FE (Cov 3)	.183	.386	.700
			ME (Cov =4)	-.435	-.877	.382
			FF	.528***	5.654	.000
3	.197	.028	Constant	26.951***	5.522	.000
			SX (Cov 1)	-4.219***	-3.558	.000
			PI (Cov 2)	-.102	-.299	.765
			FE (Cov 3)	.219	.468	.640
			ME (Cov 4)	-.376	-.768	.443
			FF	.409***	4.016	.000
			PS	.254**	2.731	.007

**Note.** SX = Sex; 0=male, 1=female, PI = Parents' Income, FE = Father's Education, ME = Mother's Education, FF = Family Functioning, PS = Peers Support, Cov = Covariate. \*  $\rho < .05$ . \*\*  $\rho < .01$ . \*\*\*  $\rho < .001$ .

**Table 4.** Hypotheses Testing Results

Hypothesis	Path	Unstandardized Coefficients			Conclusion
		B	T	Sig.	
1	FF → FOM	.409***	4.016	.000	H <sub>0</sub> rejected
2	PS → FOM	.254**	2.731	.007	H <sub>0</sub> rejected

In accordance with the hypotheses testing result in **Table 3.** and **Table 4.** a regression equation on a relationship between family functioning, peers support, and future orientation in marriage with covariates (gender, parent's income, father's education, and mother's education) Can be seen in **Figure 1.**

$$Y = 26.951 - 4.219(SX) - .102(PI) + 0.219(FE) - .376(ME) + .409(FF) + .254(PS)$$



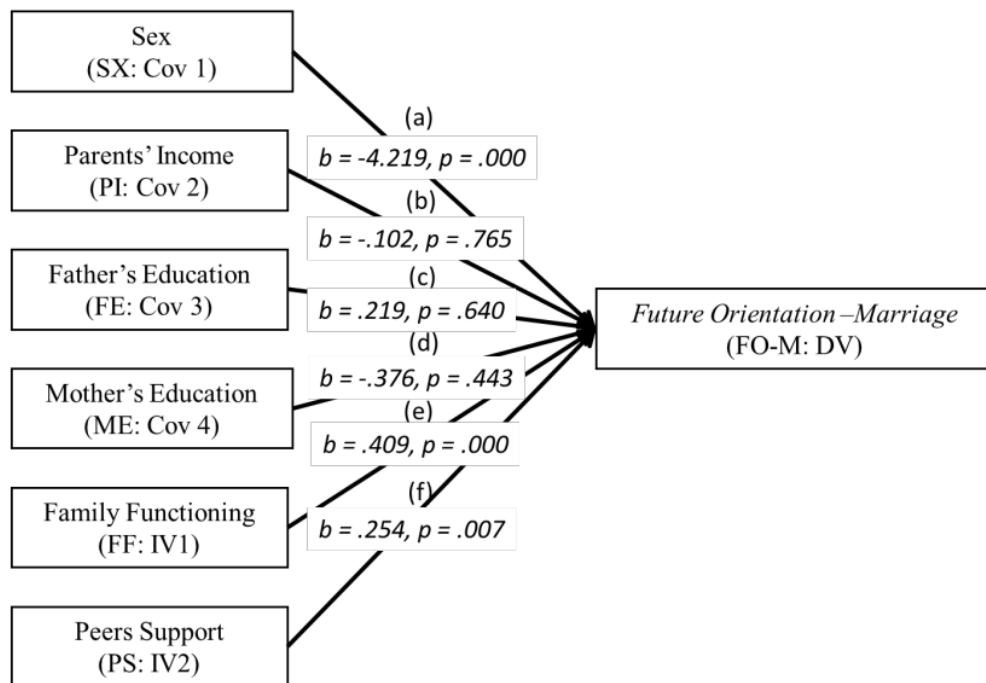


Figure 1. Hierarchical Regression Analysis Results Diagram

### Discussion

From this study, it is found that family functioning has a significant role in positively predicting the future orientation in marriage development of twelve-grade students from “X” Private High School in Tangerang City, which means students who believe that their family has healthy and effective structure, organization, and interaction pattern between the members can develop a more transparent, more directed subjective image of desired future. It can be concluded that this finding supports Hypothesis 1, which stated that there is a positive relationship between family functioning and future orientation in marriage.

This result provides more evidence to future orientation theory by Seginer (2009), which stated that one of the factors that influence future orientation development in adolescents is a family atmosphere, that is family atmosphere based on parent-children relationship where they can be depicted by intimacy, flexibility, and how family members interact and communication, which then got defined by Olson et al. (2019) as family functioning. It implies that an effectively functioning family tends to have a positive atmosphere that encourages students' clearer, more optimistic, and more directed future orientation development (Seginer, 2009). The higher students' perception about how their family functions, the clearer and more directed their future orientation regarding marriage. This theory aligns with Epstein et al. (2005), who explained that one of the indicators of a healthy family is being able to play a role in terms of providing support to family members, including children and adolescents, in developing personal skills, including physical, emotional, social, and educational development, career development, and adult social development.

This study results also align with previous studies that found the consistency of the relationship between family functioning and future orientation in general, where adolescents who have positive perceptions about their family functioning and receive adequate support from their family can develop

clearer and more directed subjective image of their future (Bunchookittiyot et al., 2019; McCabe & Barnett, 2000), especially in marriage domain.

Furthermore, this research also found that peers support has a significant, positive role in predicting future orientation in marriage development in twelve-grade students of "X" Private High School in Tangerang City, implying that students who believe their peers provide emotional, instrumental, informational, and togetherness support are adept in developing subjective image of the future in the form of motivation, cognitive, and behavior that are consistent more clearly. It can be concluded that this finding supports Hypothesis 2, which stated that there is a positive relationship between peers support and future orientation in marriage.

The results of this research support the future orientation theory proposed by Seginer (2009), which stated that one of the factors influencing future orientation development in adolescents is peers relationship, that is the relationship between adolescents and their peers. This Seginer's (2009) statement aligns with Santrock's (2019), which stated that a characteristic of adolescence is an increased interest in relationships with peers and the desire to spend time with them. The intensity and time spent with friends during the teenage stage are more significant than at any other time throughout our lifespan (Papalia et al., 2009). The more positive peers support adolescents receive, the clearer and more directed their future orientation development (Seginer, 2009). This result is also congruent with previous studies that stated how adolescents who receive support from their peers can overlook their future more positively and develop clearer, more directed subjective thinking and image about their future (Dordi, 2018; Hendayani & Abdullah, 2018; Lo-Oh, 2017; Sica et al., 2015; Seginer, 2003; Seginer et al., 2004).

From Table 2, it can be seen that the average score for future orientation in marriage is high ( $M = 2.75$ ), so there is a possibility that the students will experience less problems in their future marriage (Clausen, 1991; Johnson et al., 2004), tend to have better health and well-being that allows them to build healthier and higher quality long-term relationships (Johnson et al., 2004), and tend to limit their sexual experience, have fewer numbers of sexual partners, and use more effective contraceptive methods (McCabe & Barnett, 2000).

Furthermore, based on the relatively high future orientation in marriage on average, it is expected that students, likely to experience fewer problems in future marriage when they become adults (Clausen, 1991; Johnson et al., 2004), tend to have better health and well-being so they can establish healthier and better quality long-term relationships and commitments (Johnson et al., 2004), tend to limit sexual experiences, are likely to have fewer sexual partners, and tend to use more effective contraceptive methods (McCabe & Barnett, 2000). Thus, students who successfully carry out their developmental tasks during adolescence, namely preparing for the future, especially in the marriage domain (Papalia et al., 2014; Santrock, 2019; Seginer, 2009), are expected to be able to avoid unhealthy romantic relationships and extramarital sexual relationships to avoid undesired pregnancies and unwanted early-age marriage (McCabe & Barnett, 2000; Latif & Zulherawan, 2019; Andayani, 2005). In addition, they can commit to long-term relationships and develop personal ethical values, including willingness to sacrifice, which are necessary to maintain a relationship (Seginer, 2009) so that in the context of marriage, students are expected to be able to commit and sustain their future marriage and avoid divorce (Badruzaman, 2021; Munawara, 2021; Yumarni & Suhartini, 2019). In the end, students who have a clear and directed future orientation in the marriage domain are expected to be able to build happy marriages and families (Seginer, 2009; Clausen, 1991; Johnson et al., 2004; McCabe & Barnett, 2000) which in turn can obtain more optimal life satisfaction (Kasapoglu & Yabanigul, 2018; Naess et al., 2014).

Moreover, Table 3 shows that sex has a significant role in predicting future orientation in marriage in twelve-grade students of "X" Private High School in Tangerang City. According to Seginer (2009), sex difference accounts as one of the factors which influence future orientation development in teenagers, where female teenagers invest more in a relational domain (marriage and family), while male

teenagers invest more in an instrumental domain (job and career). However, in the current study, male students had higher future orientation in marriage than female students. This finding is inconsistent with findings from the study conducted by Seginer (2009). This difference can be explained by the cultural background difference between both studies; Seginer (2009) conducted the study on adolescents with Arab-Israeli traditional cultural background, where male tend to be encouraged to pursue careers and jobs, while female are more encouraged to establish their marriage and family. In contrast, this study is conducted in an urban cultural setting which has already adopted modern values, including gender equality in higher education (Trisnawati & Widiansyah, 2022), career and work environment (Nuraeni & Suryono, 2021), family (Qomariah, 2019), household affairs and nurturing (Pratiwi, 2018).

## Conclusion

This study examined how far family functioning and peers support are related to future orientation marriage in a group of twelfth graders. Future orientation marriage is a subjective images they develop about the future marriage they want, including how they think, explore, and plan their lifespan development journey related to marriage. In conclusion, this study has fulfilled the research purposes, which are (1) family functioning has a positive relationship with future orientation in marriage; (2) peers support has a positive relationship with future orientation in marriage; (3) simultaneously, family functioning and peers support have a positive relationship with future orientation in marriage; and (4) future orientation in marriage is lower in female students compared to male students.

## Suggestions

For future studies, it is suggested to conduct the research in a bigger population using a random sampling technique to generalize the results more widely. For the related party in the study, which is parents, it is suggested for school officials, especially headmasters and counseling teachers, to provide psychoeducational programs for them based on this research results, which include (1) parents have to increase their family functioning so that the students can be more involved in increasing their family functioning, too; (2) parents need to encourage their adolescents to build positive friendships and make sure that their social circles provide social supports that they need, so they will be motivated to develop clearer, more direction future orientation.

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