

Effectiveness of Badan Penasihat Pembinaan dan Pelestarian Perkawinan in the Prospective Bride Course Program as an Effort to Anticipate Divorce

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Abstract: Divorce and marital disputes are significant social issues in Deli Serdang Regency, Indonesia. This study evaluates the effectiveness of the prospective bride and groom course program and the role of the Marriage Counseling, Guidance, and Preservation Agency (BP4) in resolving marital disputes during the 2021-2023 period. This empirical legal research employs a descriptive qualitative approach, utilizing data from BP4 statistical reports and the Lubuk Pakam Religious Court. The findings indicate that BP4's involvement in marital disputes is low, ranging from 0.95% to 1.48% of total cases filed with the Religious Court, but the success rate of mediation at BP4 is significant, reaching 33.33%. The prospective bride and groom course program is effective in reducing the number of disputes that end up in court. Policy recommendations include increasing public awareness about the importance of mediation before filing court cases and strengthening the prospective bride and groom course program as a more effective divorce prevention measure.

Keywords: BP4 effectiveness, prospective bride and groom, anticipating divorce.

Abstrak: Perceraian dan perselisihan perkawinan adalah masalah sosial yang signifikan di Kabupaten Deli Serdang, Indonesia. Penelitian ini mengevaluasi efektivitas program kursus calon pengantin dan peran Badan Penasihat Pembinaan dan Pelestarian Perkawinan (BP4) dalam menyelesaikan perselisihan perkawinan selama periode 2021-2023. Penelitian hukum empiris ini menggunakan pendekatan deskriptif kualitatif, dengan data dari laporan statistik BP4 dan Pengadilan Agama Lubuk Pakam. Hasil menunjukkan bahwa keterlibatan BP4 dalam perselisihan perkawinan rendah, berkisar antara 0,95% hingga 1,48% dari total kasus di Pengadilan Agama, tetapi tingkat keberhasilan mediasi di BP4 cukup signifikan, mencapai 33,33%. Program kursus calon pengantin efektif dalam mengurangi jumlah perselisihan yang berakhir di pengadilan. Rekomendasi kebijakan mencakup peningkatan kesadaran tentang pentingnya mediasi sebelum mengajukan kasus ke pengadilan dan penguatan program kursus calon pengantin sebagai langkah pencegahan perceraian.

Keywords: efektivitas BP4, Calon Pengantin, Antisipasi Perceraian

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Introduction

Opinions and directions from institutions or neutral parties whose credibility is recognized are very important for families experiencing problems. This guide helps them make the right decisions to resolve family problems. In Indonesia, attention to family issues is very high, seen from the emergence of marriage counseling institutions, both individually and in groups, as a positive response to this need. These institutions began the formation of the Marriage Development and Preservation Advisory Body (BP4), which was confirmed in the BP4 Articles of Association based on Decree of the Minister of Religion Number 10 of 1992. The history of BP4 began in 1954 in Bandung, then expanded to Jakarta under the name the Marriage Advisory and Divorce Settlement Committee (P5), in Central Java and East Java under the name BP4, and in the Special Region of Yogyakarta under the name Household Welfare Agency (BKRT).¹

At a conference in Tretes, East Java, 25-30 June 1955, these organizations were combined into the Marriage Advisory and Divorce Settlement Agency through Minister of Religion Decree Number 85 of 1961. Minister of Religion Decree Number 30 of 1977 recognized BP4 as the only body assisting the Ministry of Religion's duties in counseling, marriage, domestic disputes, and divorce. At the IX National Conference and VI National Conference on 6-7 January 1992, BP4 was given a new name, the Marriage Disputes and Divorce Advisory Body. Decree of the Minister of Religion No. 541 of 1998 changed its name to the Advisory Body for the Development and Preservation of

Marriage. At the XIV National Conference on 3 June 2009 in Jakarta, article 2 of BP4's Articles of Association stated that BP4 is a professional organization of a socio-religious nature and is a partner of the Department of Religion in creating a *sakinah, mawaddah, warahmah* family.²

The linkage of BP4 activities with statutory regulations is crucial because legal processes related to marriage and divorce are clearly regulated in legislation, including the role of institutions authorized to handle this matter and the procedures that must be followed by the parties involved, including civil servants.³

BP4 has been present in Indonesia for a long time and has also expanded its presence to the sub-regional level, including in Deli Serdang Regency. There, BP4 has operated since establishing the Serdang Deli Regency Religious Affairs Office in 1955. The organizational structure of BP4 in this area includes various fields such as Sakinah Family Education and Support, Human Resources Development, Legal and Marriage Counseling, Communication and Information, and Marriage Counseling. Sakinah Family and Youth.

In 2009, various activities took place at the BP4 National Conference forum, including marriage counseling for prospective couples, guidance and conflict resolution for couples facing marital disputes,⁴ and active collaboration with government agencies and religious organizations in the Deli Serdang Regency.

Previous research conducted by Rafnital Hasanah Harahap examines the relevance of pre-marital guidance to the high divorce rate

¹ Y Agustina, *Fungsi Badan Penasehat Pembinaan dan Pelestarian Perkawinan (BP4) dalam Mengatasi Perceraian di Kantor Urusan Agama (KUA) kecamatan Sumberjaya ...* (repository.radenintan.ac.id, 2018).

² Badan Penasihat Pembinaan dan Pelestarian Perkawinan (BP4), *Hasil Hunas BP4 XIII/2004 dan Pemilihan Keluarga Sakinah Teladan Tingkat Nasional* (Jakarta, 2005).

³ Abdul Rahim Hakimi dkk., "Legal Policy for Women Workers in Indonesia: A Review of Contemporary

Islamic Law," *MILRev : Metro Islamic Law Review* 3, no. 1 (4 April 2024): 66–94, <https://doi.org/10.32332/milrev.v3i1.9023>.

⁴ Supriyadi Supriyadi dan Sukron Ma'mun, "Contemporary Inheritance: The Application of Inheritance Division in Juridical, Psychological, Sociological and Economic Perspective," *MILRev : Metro Islamic Law Review* 2, no. 2 (11 November 2023): 134–54, <https://doi.org/10.32332/milrev.v2i2.8037>.

in Medan City. Implementing pre-marital guidance aims to create a happy and peaceful family and reduce divorce. However, the research results show that premarital counseling at KUA Medan City is not effective because many couples do not receive premarital counseling but only a marriage course certificate.⁵ Siti Djazimah and Muhammad Jihadul Hayat, in their research in the city of Yogyakarta, found that even though pre-marriage course regulations exist, many people face difficulties in taking these courses. Obstacles included budgetary and implementation issues based more on religious traditions than clear legal grounds.⁶ Winny Kirana Hasanah and colleagues highlighted the importance of reproductive health education in premarital counseling for prospective Muslim couples. Even though premarital counseling has been carried out, material related to reproductive health has not been delivered optimally due to a lack of facilities, and the duration of counseling is still less than 24 meetings.⁷

Imroatul Azizah and Farida Isroani found that the Covid-19 pandemic increased the divorce rate, but marriage counseling conducted by the Tuban Regency Religious Affairs Office proved effective in reducing the divorce rate.⁸ Juwaini Saleh and Nurullah Amri's research in Aceh, showed that the government's marriage development policy aims to increase family resilience. However, the implementation of marriage counseling still faces obstacles such as formulating

implementation models, minimal budgets, and lack of regular evaluations.⁹ Sari Izzati researched the communication patterns of BP4 counselors in mediation to prevent divorce in Padang City, finding that religious and cultural approaches were used as the main strategies in persuasive communication. Itriyah and Padilla Choirunnisa highlighted the importance of psychological maturity for prospective brides and grooms of Polri members in the South Sumatra Regional Police through pre-marital counseling, which helps couples prepare themselves to face household challenges.¹⁰ Overall, this research emphasizes the urgency of premarital counseling and its effectiveness in reducing divorce rates, although there are still many challenges that must be overcome in its implementation.

Previous research conducted by various researchers had a varied focus related to premarital guidance, marriage counseling, and reproductive health education in the context of preventing divorce. These studies explore various aspects such as the relevance of pre-marital guidance (Rafnital Hasanah Harahap), challenges in implementing pre-marriage courses (Siti Djazimah and Muhammad Jihadul Hayat), the importance of reproductive health education (Winny Kirana Hasanah et al.), the impact of the pandemic on divorce and the effectiveness of marriage counseling (Imroatul Azizah and Farida Isroani), government policy in fostering marriage (Juwaini Saleh and

⁵ Rafnital Hasanah Harahap, "Relevansi Bimbingan Perkawinan Pranikah Dengan Tingginya Angka Perceraian: Studi Analisis Terhadap Pelaksanaan Bimbingan Perkawinan Pranikah Di KUA Kota Medan," *Mizan: Journal of Islamic Law* 5, no. 3 (2021): 393, <https://doi.org/10.32507/mizan.v5i3.1098>.

⁶ Siti Djazimah dan Muhammad Jihadul Hayat, "Pelaksanaan Kursus Pranikah Di Kota Yogyakarta: Urgentitas, Efektivitas Hukum, Dan Tindakan Sosial," *Al-Ahwal: Jurnal Hukum Keluarga Islam* 11, no. 1 (2019): 59, <https://doi.org/10.14421/ahwal.2018.11105>.

⁷ Winny Kirana Hasanah dkk., "Analisis Pelaksanaan Edukasi Pranikah Terkait Kesehatan Reproduksi Pada Pasangan Calon Pengantin Muslim (Literature Review)," *Hearty* 10, no. 2 (2022): 53,

<https://doi.org/10.32832/hearty.v10i2.6284>.

⁸ Imroatul Azizah dan Farida Isroani, "Forming a Sakinah Family through Marriage Guidance for Brides-to-be during the Pandemic," *Indonesian Journal of Law and Economics Review* 17 (20 Januari 2023), <https://doi.org/10.21070/ijler.v17i0.900>.

⁹ Juwaini Saleh dkk., "Marriage Guidance towards Family Resilience in Aceh: A Study of Islamic Law Philosophy," *Samarah* 6, no. 2 (2022): 594–613, <https://doi.org/10.22373/sjkh.v6i2.12448>.

¹⁰ Izhati Sari, "KOMUNIKASI PERSUASIF KONSELOR BADAN PENASEHAT PEMBINAAN PELESTARIAN PERKAWINAN (BP4) DALAM MEDIASI UNTUK MENCEGAH PERCERAIAN DI KOTA PADANG" (Universitas Andalas, 2020).

Nurullah Amri), as well as counselor communication patterns in divorce mediation (Sari Izzati). Meanwhile, this research specifically focuses on the effectiveness of the Marriage Development and Preservation Advisory Board (BP4) in implementing prospective bride and groom courses as an effort to anticipate divorce. This research uses an empirical approach to evaluate the program's impact on reducing the divorce rate in Deli Serdang Regency, providing up-to-date and specific data regarding the effectiveness of bride and groom courses organized by BP4. It is hoped that the results of this research can provide a practical contribution to improving premarital development programs and provide policy recommendations to increase the effectiveness of divorce prevention efforts through more structured and comprehensive bride and groom courses.

Based on the author's temporary research, Deli Serdang Regency covers an area of 2497.72 km²; the population is 1,953,986. There are around 493,899 people in 2020.¹¹ The population density is 193 people/km spread across 9 sub-districts. With 75 villages and 23 sub-districts, this district is quite high, evidenced by the high divorce rate, especially compared to Deli Serdang Regency. In 2019, 15,116 couples married, 408 divorced in 2019, 546 in 2019 and 414 in 2020. Meanwhile, in 2018, there were 1665 divorce incidents; in 2019 there were 2040 incidents and in 2020, there were 1757 incidents; the overall number of divorces in 2018 totaling 1278 incidents; in 2019, 1306 incidents; and 2020 1106 divorce incidents.

Based on this data, it can be seen that there are many marital disputes in Deli Serdang Regency. relatively high compared to other districts and those that go through a test at the Deli Serdang Religious Court, not to mention those that don't go through a religious court, are often referred to as secret or underhanded divorces. BP4 aims to reduce

marital discord in areas such as premarital counseling for prospective couples. BP4 Deli Serdang Regency does not counsel prospective couples before marriage, even though the number of marital disputes in the Regency is relatively high. When compared with other areas in North Sumatra, such as Medan City, Deli Serdang Bedagai Regency, Simalungun Regency, Siantar City, Binjai City, and others, they implement coaching for prospective brides and grooms before the wedding is held in these districts. /The City Religious Office and some couples live together and the Regency BP4 issues a certificate to the couple proving that leadership occurs even in Deli Serdang Regency, Bina is considered the Sakinah Family Group and the Sakinah Family study group.

Based on the background above, in this research the author focuses on the efforts, roles and activities of BP4 in resolving marital disputes in Deli Serdang Regency based on the principles of Law Number 1 of 1974 which aims to make divorce difficult. To realize the goal of marriage to create a happy, eternal and peaceful family, this research was conducted in the Deli Serdang area, where the divorce rate in the Deli Serdang area is quite high; the high divorce rate shows this. Seeing this situation, the author is interested in researching the effectiveness of the Marriage Development and Preservation Advisory Board (Bp4) in the prospective bride and groom course program as an effort to anticipate divorce in the Deli Serdang Regency

Method

This research is empirical juridical research based on facts obtained objectively in the field in the form of data because it describes or describes a function within the object or an idea that became the idea of research into the effectiveness of BP4 in Deli

¹¹ BPS Deliserdang, https://deliserdangkab.bps.go.id_,

accessed on January 5 2024, at 15.44 WIB.

Serdang Regency. This research is qualitative descriptive research, a procedure used to solve problems by describing objective conditions at that time based on directly observed facts. Descriptive research describes the characteristics of individuals, situations, or groups without using previous hypotheses in the form of symbols or numbers.¹² The approach used is a legal sociology approach, this approach aims to understand legal legitimacy both in theory and in practice, following the reality that actually occurs.

The research location of the Deli Serdang Regency Marriage Development and Preservation Advisory Agency (BP4) took samples in three sub-districts, namely Hamparan Perak, Sibolangit, and Percut Sei Tuan, considering that the location is easy to partner with the ministry. Religion in Marriage Counseling in Deli Serdang Regency. The data collection techniques used are observation, interviews, and documentation.¹³

Results and Discussion

Program Implementation and Role of the Marriage Development and Preservation Advisory Board (BP4) in Deli Serdang Regency

Chairman and staff of the Marriage Guidance and Guidance Council (BP4) of Percut Sei Tuan and Sibolangit Districts, Deli Serdang Regency, such as Ahmad Sayuti Hasibuan, Wasimah, and Rosmayati Novitasari Tarigan, information was obtained regarding marriage guidance efforts to prevent disputes that could result in divorce.

BP4 plays a role in various capacities: as a counselor, facilitator, mediator, and organizer of pre-marital courses.

a. As a Counselor

Counseling is good teaching, lessons, and advice (instruction, warning, prevention). A counselor is a person who provides advice and suggestions. Counseling is giving advice. Marriage counseling is carried out after the marriage takes place and the couple says *siqhat taklik*, the husband and wife are counseled by the BP4 Sei Tuan officer of Percut and Delin Sibolangit sub-districts or the marriage registrar officer. Serdang Regency. Sometimes BP4 officers ask religious or community leaders or parents of married couples to counsel the couple.¹⁴ A woman creates a happy family in this world, and the hereafter from her marriage, a family that is *sakinah mawaddah warahmah*. Apart from that, he also acts as a mediator in resolving marital disputes so that the marriage becomes strong and does not break up easily. It also explains how to raise pious and pious children by including religious education in the family.¹⁵ This counseling was carried out in collaboration with the Religious Bureau of Percut Sei Tuan and Sibolangit Districts in the Deli Serdang Region which BP4 officers staffed from Percut Sei Tuan and Sibolangit Districts in the Deli Serdang Region who had a dispute. Marriage, religious affairs offices in Percut Sei Tuan and Sibolangit sub-districts, Deli Serdang Regency, and houses that remind us of the good and bad of husbands, wives, and children. If the dispute is not resolved properly, it can lead to divorce.¹⁶ The breakdown of a marriage is

¹² Lexy J. Moleong, *Metode Penelitian Kualitatif* (Bandung: PT. Remaja Rosdakarya, 2010).

¹³ Ridwan, *Skala Pengukuran Variabel-Variabel Penelitian* (Bandung: Alfabeta, 2005).

¹⁴ Azizah dan Isroani, "Forming a Sakinah Family through Marriage Guidance for Brides-to-be during the Pandemic."

¹⁵ Imam Syafi'i, Ruqoyatul Faiqoh, dan Vasco Fronzoni, "Concept of Misaqan Ghalidzan in Contemporary Interpretation of Quraish Shihab Thoughts," *MILRev: Metro Islamic Law Review* 2, no. 2 (9 November 2023): 115–33, <https://doi.org/10.32332/milrev.v2i2.7807>.

¹⁶ Dian Apriana, Nanda Silvia, dan Uwem Imoh Emmanuel, "Imbalance of Rights and Obligations of Husband and Wife in the Family," *MILRev: Metro*

detrimental to both parties, especially the children.¹⁷ This advice is given to husband and wife to think about their children's future happiness. This was done by BP4 Percut Sei Tuan and Sibolangit Districts, Deli Serdang Regency, to married couples who notified BP4 in their districts. If marital problems are quite serious and difficult to reconcile and remain firm in the decision to end the marriage, entering into a peaceful marriage is recommended by registering with the Deli Serdang Religious Court. BP4 officers advised them always to maintain a friendly relationship with their husband or wife, pay attention to their children, and provide them with a good living and education.

b. As a Facilitator.

Facilities are tools to facilitate operations; comfort makes a task easier (living, traveling), and convenience is a tool that makes a task or job easier. An organizer is a person who provides resources.¹⁸ BP4 Percut Sei Tuan and Sibolangit Districts as a Companion for Deli Serdang Regency, a place for married couples in the District to report any disputes in their marriage. BP4 officers will receive and record the problem. Furthermore, BP4 Percut, Sei Tuan, and Sibolangit Districts, Deli Serdang Regency as a place where husband and wife can resolve problems well, is led by BP4 officers from Percut, Sei Tuan and Sibolangit Districts, Deli Serdang Regency.

c. As Mediator.

Mediation is when a third party participates as an advisor in resolving a dispute. Intermediaries are intermediaries,

connectors, and go-betweens. Thus, it can be understood that a Mediator is a third party who acts as an intermediary, mediator, intermediary or liaison between the parties to the dispute.¹⁹ After receiving a message from the husband or wife, the Marriage Development and Maintenance Council acts as a mediator and invites the husband and wife to ask for information about the problems occurring in the marriage and find out and discuss together the reasons for the marriage.. marriage, marital discord, so that there is hope that the marriage will last and the marriage will not break up.

d. As Wasilah/Media/Message Conveyor.

Communicators/Media are people or groups who convey messages to a medium. The communicator is the recipient of the message in communication. Communication is sending and receiving messages or news between two or more people so that the message in question can be understood. The Advisory Council for the Development and Maintenance of Marriage Subdivision of Percut Sei Tuan and Sibolangit Deli Serdang Regency is a medium for conveying messages to media in disputes. BP4 Percut Sei Tuan District, after finding out the root of the problem of husband and wife disputes, what husband and wife want and don't want, BP4 officers will convey messages about what husbands want and don't want. wishes for a man or woman.²⁰ By communicating this message, a man or woman knows what they want from their partner, so they can discuss problems together, solving them while remaining aware of each other's

Islamic Law Review 1, no. 2 (27 Desember 2022): 214–30, <https://doi.org/10.32332/milrev.v1i2.6210>.

¹⁷ Sari, "KOMUNIKASI PERSUASIF KONSELOR BADAN PENASEHAT PEMBINAAN PELESTARIAN PERKAWINAN (BP4) DALAM MEDIASI UNTUK MENCEGAH PERCERAIAN DI KOTA PADANG."

¹⁸ Arditya Prayogi dan Muhammad Jauhari, "Bimbingan Perkawinan Calon Pengantin: Upaya Mewujudkan Ketahanan Keluarga Nasional," *Islamic Counseling*:

Jurnal Bimbingan Konseling Islam 5, no. 2 (7 November 2021): 223, <https://doi.org/10.29240/jbk.v5i2.3267>.

¹⁹ T Resma, *PELAKSANAAN BIMBINGAN PERKAWINAN DALAM MEWUJUDKAN KETAHANAN KELUARGA (Studi di Kantor Urusan Agama Kecamatan Rangkasbitung ... (digilib.uinkhas.ac.id, 2023)*.

²⁰ Muhamad Hasan Sebyar, "The Role of Women in Improving Well-being Family Perspective Maqashid Syaria," *Hukum Islam* 21, no. 2 (2021): 186–204.

shortcomings and mistakes.

e. Premarital Course Organizer

Implementing the BP4 Program in organizing premarital courses is one of the important efforts in fostering and maintaining marriage in Indonesia. Based on Article 3(1) of the 2013 Decree of the Director General of the Islamic Community, BP4 and other religious organizations can organize premarital courses accredited by the local Office of Religious Affairs (KUA). This course provides learning opportunities and aims to educate prospective brides and grooms about the responsibilities, rights, and obligations in marriage and prepare them psychologically and socially to lead a healthy and harmonious married life.²¹

The material and learning methods in the pre-wedding course are carefully prepared to meet the needs of prospective brides and grooms from various backgrounds and conditions. The material covered basic aspects of married life, such as effective communication, conflict management, the rights and obligations of husband and wife, and the importance of religious values in the family.²² The learning methods used include lectures, group discussions, case studies, role simulations, and individual assignments designed to provide a holistic and interactive learning experience.

Resource persons involved in the premarital course include marriage consultants, religious figures, psychologists and professionals in their respective fields. They not only act as teachers, but also as guides and advisors for prospective brides

and grooms in preparing themselves to face the various dynamics and challenges of married life.²³ Their involvement provides a broad and in-depth perspective, starting from spiritual, social and psychological aspects in fostering a harmonious and lasting husband and wife relationship.

Funding for organizing premarital courses comes from the State Revenue and Expenditure Budget (APBN) and Regional Revenue and Expenditure Budget (APBD). This fund is provided as a form of government support for the community development program through strong and sustainable marriages. With this financial support, it is hoped that the quality and coverage of premarital courses can continue to be improved so that the benefits for society are increasingly optimal.

After completing the premarital course, participants will receive an official certificate from an accredited institution, proving they have attended and passed the program. This certificate is required as an additional requirement to complete the marriage registration process at the local Religious Affairs Office. Even though it is not mandatory, having this certificate is highly recommended because it equips the prospective bride and groom with deeper knowledge about the dynamics of domestic life.

Besides premarital courses, BP4 also implements various programs that support forming a harmonious family. These programs include guidance for prospective brides and grooms, school-aged teenagers,

²¹ Rezki Suci Qamaria dkk., "Pendidikan Keluarga melalui Kursus Calon Pengantin sebagai Upaya Membendung Laju Perceraian," *Archive: Jurnal Pengabdian Kepada Masyarakat* 1, no. 1 (31 Desember 2021): 1–10, <https://doi.org/10.55506/arch.v1i1.9>.

²² Agus Jaya dan Muhammad Amin, "EFEKTIVITAS KEBIJAKAN KURSUS CALON PENGANTIN DALAM MENEKAN ANGKA PERCERAIAN DI WILAYAH KERJA KUA KECAMATAN TANJUNG BATU, OGAN ILIR, SUMATERA SELATAN," *ISLAMITSCH FAMILIERECHT*

JOURNAL 3, no. 02 (14 November 2022): 114–36, <https://doi.org/10.32923/ijf.v3i02.2772>.

²³ Suriyati Suriyati dkk., "PELAKSANAAN KURSUS CALON PENGANTIN (SUSCATIN) DALAM MENANGGULANGI PERCERAIAN DI KUA SINJAI UTARA KABUPATEN SINJAI," *Jurnal Mimbar: Media Intelektual Muslim dan Bimbingan Rohani* 10, no. 1 (3 Mei 2024): 33–40, <https://doi.org/10.47435/mimbar.v10i1.2679>.

marriage seminars, Friday sermons, Friday safaris, and counseling about maintaining family harmony and preventing divorce. This is part of BP4's commitment to helping people build strong, prosperous and resilient families to life's various challenges.

Marriage Data in Percut Sei Tuan District, Silver Overlay, Sibolangit 2014 until 2020, as follows:

Table 1. Marriage Data in 2014-2020

Subdistrict	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Percut Sei Tuan	2,250	2,200	2,255	2,260	2,256	2,257	2,260
Hamparan Perak	1,290	1,300	1,320	1,325	1,325	1,321	1,330
Sibolangit	20	21	20	21	19	22	23
Total number	3,560	3,521	3,595	3,606	3,600	3,600	3,613

Source: BP4 Deli Serdang Regency

In table 1., marriage data in Percut Sei Tuan, Hamparan Perak, and Sibolangit subdistricts from 2014 to 2020 shows a fairly stable trend with yearly variations in the number of marriages. In 2014, the total number of marriages reached 3,560, with Percut Sei Tuan recording 2,250, Hamparan Perak 1,290, and Sibolangit 20 marriages. The following year, the number of marriages decreased slightly to 3,521, with Percut Sei Tuan 2,200, Hamparan Perak 1,300, and Sibolangit 21 marriages. In 2016, marriages were slightly increased to 3,595, with Percut Sei Tuan 2,255, Hamparan Perak 1,320, and Sibolangit 20 marriages. Data for 2017 shows another increase to 3,606, with Percut Sei Tuan 2,260, Hamparan Perak 1,325, and Sibolangit 21 marriages. In 2018 and 2019, the number of marriages remained stable at around 3,600, with slight variations in Hamparan Perak and Sibolangit. 2020 recorded 3,613 marriages, with Percut Sei Tuan 2,260, Hamparan Perak 1,330, and Sibolangit 23 marriages, showing a steady growth trend in marriage records in the region

Discussion

Effectiveness of the Bride and Groom Course Program Based on Divorce in Deli Serdang Regency 2021-2023

Based on 2021-2023 data from the Lubuk Pakam Religious Court, the divorce rate in the area experiences significant fluctuations from year to year. In 2021, it was recorded that 2,987 divorce cases were successfully decided, with 2,792 divorce certificates issued. This figure shows the high number of divorce cases that had to be handled by religious justice institutions during that period. Meanwhile, in 2023, although there will be a slight decline, it will still be significant, with 2,555 divorce cases decided and 2,539 divorce certificates issued. This data illustrates the challenges faced in maintaining household stability and the important role of judicial institutions in resolving marital disputes in society.

From the results of the research, the success of the role of BP4 Percut Sei Tuan, Percut Sei Tuan, and Sibolangit sub-districts in resolving marital disputes as an effort to anticipate divorce can be seen in the table of the number of people consulted at BP4 Percut Sei Tuan, Percut Sei Tuan and Sibolangit sub-districts, which are as follows:

Table 2. resolving marital disputes in 2021-2023

Year	2021-2023			
	Disputes in Religious Courts	Consult BP4	Can be reconciled BP4	Ended up in the Religious Court
2021	3287	33	11	2987
2022	3107	46	8	2708
2023	2956	28	9	2555
Total	9350	107	28	8250

Source: BP4 Deli Serdang Regency

In table 2, to understand the dynamics and implications of data regarding divorce disputes in the Religious Courts and the role of BP4 in resolving disputes in Percut Sei Tuan, Hamparan Perak, and Sibolangit

Districts from 2021 to 2023, we need to look more deeply at each year.

In 2021, it was recorded that there were 3287 divorce disputes submitted to the Religious Courts. Of this number, 33 cases have been consulted with BP4 to find a solution. BP4 succeeded in resolving 11 of the 33 cases consulted, while the remainder, namely 2987 cases, ended up being decided in the Religious Courts. This indicates that BP4 plays an important role in resolving divorce disputes before they enter the realm of formal court. Percentage of participation to BP4 of the dispute amount:

$$33 / 3287 \times 100\% \approx 1.00\%$$

Percentage of mediation success in BP4 from those consulted:

$$11 / 33 \times 100\% \approx 33.33\%$$

In 2022, the number of disputes in the Religious Courts will decrease slightly to 3107 cases. The number of cases consulting with BP4 increased to 46, but only eight were successfully resolved through BP4 mediation. The remaining 2708 cases are still being resolved in the Religious Courts. However, BP4's efforts in divorce mediation appear to be increasing, although the success rate is not yet significant.

Percentage of participation to BP4 of the dispute amount:

$$46/3107 \times 100\% \approx 1.48\%$$

Percentage of mediation success in BP4 from those consulted:

$$8 / 46 \times 100\% \approx 17.39\%$$

In 2023, there will be a further decrease in the number of disputes in the Religious Courts to 2956 cases. However, the number of cases consulted by BP4 decreased to 28 cases, and BP4 succeeded in resolving 9 of these cases. This shows that despite a decrease in the number of cases submitted to BP4, BP4's success rate in mediation increased compared to the previous year, with more cases being resolved before being decided in court. Percentage of participation

to BP4 of the dispute amount:

$$28 / 2956 \times 100\% \approx 0.95\%$$

Percentage of mediation success in BP4 from those consulted:

$$928 \times 100\% \approx 32.14\%$$

Overall, from 2021 to 2023, there is a gradual decline in divorce disputes submitted to the Religious Courts. This could indicate several possibilities, such as lifestyle changes, increased awareness of the importance of mediation before divorce, or economic and social factors that influence household dynamics.

BP4's role in resolving divorce disputes also illustrates preventive efforts to reduce the number of divorces that end in formal court. Although BP4's mediation success rate still needs to be improved, its existence as a mediation institution before court proceedings is very important in facilitating a more peaceful and dignified resolution for the parties involved.

It is important to continue to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of BP4 in resolving divorce disputes, as well as to identify what factors can support or hinder the success of mediation. With a deeper understanding of this data, strategic steps can be taken to improve the quality of mediation services and preventive efforts to reduce the divorce rate in society.

Although the bride and groom course program has become part of the marriage requirements in Deli Serdang Regency, its effectiveness in reducing the divorce rate still needs to be improved. Factors such as low participation, lack of deep understanding of the importance of the course, and lack of support or supervision of course implementation may be contributing factors to the low effectiveness of the program.

In facing this challenge, corrective steps can be taken, such as increasing public awareness of the benefits of bride and groom courses, improving the quality of

course materials and approaches, and increasing supervision of course implementation in each sub-district. This can help increase participation and optimize the benefits of this program in preventing and reducing divorce cases in society.

The percentage analysis above shows that the participation of couples who submit divorce disputes to consult with BP4 is relatively low, only around 1% of the total divorce dispute cases each year. However, the percentage of mediation success in BP4 shows quite good potential, with success rates ranging from 17% to 33%. This shows that although the prospective bride and groom course program has challenges in increasing participation, the mediation program at BP4 can provide positive results in resolving disputes before they go to court.

The success of the mediation program at BP4, which was able to resolve 28 cases out of 107 consulted over three years, shows that this approach can potentially reduce the number of disputes that must be resolved in court. The mediation success rate of 26.17% of cases consulted shows that this method effectively offers peaceful solutions for couples facing domestic conflicts. Ongoing evaluation of this program, including improvements in outreach, accessibility, and quality of mediation services, can be an important strategy in expanding its positive impact on society.

Regarding reducing the workload of the Religious Courts, the consultation and mediation program at BP4 also provides significant benefits. A total of 8,250 cases successfully resolved in the Religious Courts show that with this program, several cases that previously might have required lengthy court processes can be resolved more efficiently. This saves time and costs for the parties involved and helps optimize the role of judicial institutions in handling cases that require legal resolution.

However, further efforts are needed to increase couples' awareness and participation in the bride and groom's course program to achieve a greater impact in reducing the divorce rate. Evaluation and improvement of material delivery, implementation methods and program promotion strategies must be carried out continuously. In addition, further support from local governments, social institutions and local communities is also key in increasing the effectiveness of this program in preventing and reducing divorce in Deli Serdang Regency.

Conclusion

Based on data analysis regarding the effectiveness of the bride and groom course program and the role of BP4 in handling marriage disputes in Deli Serdang Regency from 2021 to 2023, it appears that participation in BP4 in resolving marriage disputes is still quite low. In 2021, only around 1.00% of total marital disputes were consulted by BP4, with only 33 cases out of 3287 successfully reconciled. However, the success rate of mediation that year was quite significant, reaching 33.33% of cases consulted. In 2022, participation in BP4 will increase slightly to around 1.48% of the total 3107 marital dispute cases. However, the success rate of mediation decreased to 17.39% of cases consulted, although the number of cases successfully reconciled reached 8 out of 46 cases consulted. The year 2023 shows a trend of decreasing participation in BP4, with only around 0.95% of the total 2956 marital dispute cases seeking mediation in BP4. Despite this, the mediation success rate rose to 32.14% of cases consulted, with nine successfully reconciled out of 28 cases submitted to BP4. Overall, although participation in BP4 in handling marriage disputes is still low, the bride and groom courses and mediation programs at BP4 have proven their effectiveness in reducing the number of disputes in the

Religious Courts. Further efforts are needed to increase public awareness of the importance of mediation before deciding to take a case to court and increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the bride and groom course program to prevent divorce in society.

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