



ECONOMIC ANNALS-XXI

ISSN 1728-6239 (Online)
ISSN 1728-6220 (Print)
<https://doi.org/10.21003/ea>
<http://ea21journal.world>

Volume 209 Issue (5-6) 2024

Citation information: Widiartari, M. M., Pawito, Utari, P., & Nurhaeni, I. D. A. (2024). Socio-economic analysis of the loss of privacy context in marital conflict mediation (a case of Osing community in Banyuwangi town of Indonesia). *Economic Annals-XXI*, 209(5-6), 68-74. doi: <https://doi.org/10.21003/ea.V209-07>



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Socio-economic analysis of the loss of privacy context in marital conflict mediation (a case of Osing community in Banyuwangi town of Indonesia)

Abstract. The purpose of this study is to analyze the economic and social relationships between the families in Indonesia in communities who still apply custom mediations and relatives' marriages. The research method in this study is a survey. The statistical population is working and housewife women in Banyuwangi town, Indonesia, and the sample size is 275 people. The sampling was done using cluster and simple random sampling over 2022-2023. The research findings indicate that there is a significant relationship between the amount of income and family support and marital life differences in the two groups of working women and housewives. With the increase in the amount of family support and the increase in the income of both groups of working women and housewives, the amount of economic differences in marital life decreases. In the Osing community in Kemiren village, Banyuwangi town, Indonesia, if a conflict occurs between residents, traditional leaders will hold a mediation meeting aimed at reconciling the conflicting parties, including domestic conflicts and divorce. By applying the principles of communication privacy management theory as a theoretical basis and using the case study method, this research discovered how the privacy context regarding divorce experienced by Osing women was lost during the mediation process.

Keywords: Woman; Women; Family; Housewife; Working Women; Privacy Management; Economic Differences; Osing; Indonesia; Marital Conflict, Socio-economic Analysis; Mediation; Divorce; Communication Privacy Management Theory; CPM

JEL Classifications: E24; E41; E64; I18; J28; J31

Acknowledgements and Funding: The authors received no direct funding for this research.

Contribution: The authors contributed equally to this work.

Data Availability Statement: The dataset is available from the authors upon request.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.21003/ea.V209-07>

1. Introduction and Brief Literature Review

In the last two decades, the divorce rate in Indonesia has increased very significantly. In 2000, the divorce rate in Indonesia was recorded at around 168,000 cases out of 2 million marriages, or only around 8% of the total marriage rate. When compared with data from the central statistics agency for 2018, where the divorce rate was recorded at 408,202 cases out of 2,016,171 marriages, or 20.2% of total marriage, there is an increase of around 12%. It continues to increase, and in 2023 the divorce rate reached 29.4% of the total number of marriages (Hartarto & Hajar, 2024).

By getting married and starting to live together, a man and a woman must adjust to their new life and relationship, and in addition to paying attention to their own needs and feelings, and even more so to their spouse’s feelings and needs, provide opportunities for each other to grow and flourish, and constantly strive to maintain and protect their marital relationships and the privacy of their common life. Every man and woman experience some degree of marital disagreements and conflicts during their common life. Sometimes these disagreements are resolved in various ways and the matter is brought to a compromise, and sometimes the intensity of the disagreement reaches such a point that the couple sees no other way than to separate. Since having a minimum financial means as an economic basis is one of the things that plays an important role in the continuity and stability of family life together, families lacking such conditions are under serious threat. Economic and financial issues cannot be ignored, as there are many conflicts and disagreements that arise as a result of financial issues. (Widiantari et. al., 2018). In detail, the data on the number of divorces can be seen in Table 1.

Table 1:
Divorce rates in Indonesia, 2018-2023

Year	Marriage Rates	Divorce Rates	%	Formula for Divorce	%	Sue for Divorce	%
2018	2.016.171	408.202	20.2	107.209	26.3	300.993	73.7
2019	1.968.978	439.002	22.2	112.616	25.7	326.386	74.3
2020	1.780.346	291.677	16.4	76.707	26.3	214.970	73.7
2021	1.742.049	447.743	25.7	110.400	24.7	337.343	75.3
2022	1.705.348	516.344	30.3	127.986	24.8	388.358	75.2
2023	1.577.255	463.654	29.4	111.251	24	352.403	76

Note: Cerai talak (formula for divorce) and Cerai gugat (sue for divorce) are two terms of termination of marriage bond in Indonesia. The formula for divorce is a term that coincides with a divorce coming from the will of a husband and sue for divorce is the desire of a wife to separate from her husband.

Source: Indonesian Central Statistics Agency 2024:

<https://www.bps.go.id/en/statistics-table/3/VkhwVUuszTXJPMQ2ZFRKamNIZG9RMVo2VEdsbVVUMD-kjMw==/number-of-marriages-and-divorces-by-province--incident-.html?year=2023>

The Osing community has a unique culture related to the kinship system and marriage patterns, namely, marriage between relatives among Osing. There are two patterns of marriage in relatives, namely, young people looking for their own spouse or parents looking for spouse for their children. Usually this is done by the woman’s parents, since the child is still in her arms or is still a baby. The Osing people call it a «bakalan» marriage (Ratna Sari, & Megasari, 2020). These marriages within relatives bind the people of Kemiren village into a great kinship. That is why the community tries to avoid conflicts between residents, including marital conflicts and divorce, because they are considered to be able to damage family relationships whose ties involve almost all village residents (Littlejohn et al., 2021).

Another unique thing is the application of the customary mediation system in resolving conflicts between residents, including marital conflicts and divorce. In general, Indonesian society has long implemented a deliberation system to resolve conflicts. Even today, this method is still used, especially by indigenous peoples. However, each customary law has its own rules for resolving disputes, such as in resolving divorce cases that occurred in the Osing tribe (Lutfianidha et al., 2023). In principle, traditional mediation is carried out after a conflict cannot be resolved by the conflicting parties. In the case of mediation of marital conflict and divorce involving traditional figures, it indicates that the family can no longer reconcile the husband and wife so they have to ask the opinion of traditional figures. The assumption that marital conflict and divorce are taboo and the practice of traditional mediation involving extended families and traditional leaders makes the context of privacy a paradox. On the one

hand, marital conflicts and divorce are not suitable for other people to know, but on the other hand, the confidentiality of marital conflicts and divorce must be revealed during traditional mediation meetings. This case study examines how this paradoxical situation means that the context of privacy related to Osing women's divorce is lost due to customary mediation practices. The case study used in this research is a single case, it does not compare or look for similarities and differences in the causes of divorce even though Osing women's divorce cases have variations in the causes of divorce.

2. Communication privacy management theory

To examine the loss of privacy context in Osing traditional conflict mediation, this research uses Petronio's (2002) communication privacy management theory (CPM) as frame of theory. There are three key elements of this theory: privacy ownership, privacy control, and privacy turbulence. Privacy ownership refer to who owns information about a person. According to Petronio (2002), individuals feel that they are the sole owners of private information about themselves. When they reveal their private information to another, the other person will be a co-owner of the information and then both owner and co-owner set a regulation about rights and responsibilities. Privacy control concern the rules by which self-disclosure is managed, governing a private information whether being keep or disclose. The rules are developed with any consideration such as risk and benefit ratio, cultural expectation, gender differences, personal motivations, and situational demands that influence the sharing of information. The third key of privacy management is privacy turbulence, the situation in which rules are in turn. Privacy turbulence can occur when the rules agreed upon by the private owner and co-owner do not work as expected (Petronio, 2002).

Communication privacy management is supported by at least 5 main principles, including:

- a) private information, namely personal information that if shared with other people is the same as revealing privacy;
- b) privacy boundaries, namely the limits set by the privacy owner regarding which information is identified as private information or public information;
- c) control and ownership, namely the right a person has to reveal or keep private their personal information to or from other people, how much is revealed or hidden and how many people may or may not know their personal information;
- d) a rule-based management system, the main principle to understanding the CPM theory which includes privacy rule foundations, boundary coordination, and boundary turbulence;
- e) privacy management dialectics, is a condition where tension occurs between the desire to keep private or reveal personal information.

For CPM theory, keeping privacy secret and disclosing privacy are two opposing conditions and tension between the two is often found in a relationship.

This research studying the context of privacy relate to marital conflict of Osing women who experience divorce is lost during mediation within the family and by traditional elders. In general, women are reluctant to reveal their privacy, while on the other hand, the traditional mediation tradition in the Osing community forces Osing women to reveal private information about their marital conflicts. This contradictory situation became the background for conducting research to look at the context of lost privacy and how Osing women's strategies for managing privacy when facing Osing traditional mediation practices.

3. Methods

This chapter outlines the research methodology employed to explore the loss of privacy context in case of Osing's women divorce in relation with the tradition of conflict mediation of Osing community. The study utilizes a case study approach supported by investigative interview, and the rationale behind selecting these methodologies, the participant recruitment process, data collection techniques, and data analysis methods will be discussed in detail. Case studies are particularly effective for exploring unique or under-researched phenomena (Yin, 2014), making this approach ideal for understanding the experiences of Osing's women in case of managing privacy about their marital conflict in relation with the tradition of conflict mediation by Osing's elders. The case study in this research is a single case, i.e the divorce case of Osing women is in the context of Osing culture which has unique traditions relating to marital conflict and divorce and is possible only to occur or apply in Osing society, namely the conflict mediation system.

Hence, even though the Osing women's divorce case has variations in the causes of divorce and privacy management strategies used in mediation, this research does not compare or look for similarities and differences in the cases studied.

The participant was chosen through purposive sampling, a strategic selection method that allows the researcher to deliberately select individuals expected to provide in-depth and relevant data aligned with the study's objectives (Creswell & Poth, 2018). Purposive sampling is beneficial when the goal is to explore complex phenomena such as marital conflict and divorce, and also communication strategy relate to privacy management which requires insights from individuals who have directly experienced the phenomenon under investigation. In this case, 275 women-participants from Osing were chosen for their rich experience in marital conflict, divorce, and conflict mediation.

The data from the interview was first transcribed and coded. A thematic analysis was then conducted to identify recurring themes related to the identification of private information, the way participants control their privacy, and privacy turbulence during mediation. Themes were identified through an iterative coding process, in which the data were systematically reviewed, categorized, and interpreted (Braun & Clarke, 2006). Data variations obtained from different participants enabled the researcher to create a comprehensive picture of the participant's privacy management during the process of divorce and mediation by the elders of Osing.

4. Results

4.1. Osing traditional conflict mediation

Basically, mediation of household conflicts in the Osing community is carried out in stages, starting from mediation by the nuclear family, mediation by the families of both parties, and mediation by Osing traditional leaders and elders. The multi-level mediation process carried out is not without purpose. According to Warjiyati et al. (2023), Osing people really respect on personal rights so that if there are family problems such as marital conflicts, it is best not to let other people know about that. Therefore, it must be resolved within the family, through the mediation of parents and the nuclear family. If through mediation the nuclear family does not find a solution, then the parents will invite the family of the in-laws to mediate between the conflicting couple. And if at this stage peace does not result, then mediation will be carried out by inviting Osing traditional figures and elders.

In each mediation meeting, the conflicting parties are asked to explain the issues behind the conflict, what each party hopes, and the mediator will provide advice and considerations for resolving the conflict. Even though it has gone through multilevel mediation to mediation by traditional elders, not all marital conflicts and divorces can be reconciled. This means that the couple in conflict chooses to remain divorced and the traditional leader will convey the mediation decision in front of the extended family present at the mediation meeting. The involvement of elders and traditional leaders is a kind of obligation because every marital conflict that ends in divorce will affect the kinship relations of almost all Kemiren village residents who are bound by kinship through the practice of marriage within Osing relatives, marriage between fellow Osing residents. The Osing traditional mediation process in marriage and divorce conflicts based on the experience of the speakers and information from Osing traditional elders can be described as presented in [Figure 1](#).

Based on interviews about the experience of divorce experienced by Osing women who were the sources in this research, the causes of household conflict that resulted in divorce were financial problems, infidelity, the partner's temperamental behavior, domestic violence, and mother-in-law's intervention in the household. These different causes of divorce have implications for privacy identification, privacy control, and privacy dilemmas.

4.2. Privacy ownership concept in conflict mediation of Osing community

Privacy ownership relate to identification of private information, i.e all information identified as private information according to participants. When a spouse experience marital conflict, they generally hide all information related to the conflict from others. They will identify which information categorized as a private information, and also identify how much private information they will keep and how much will be disclosed to others. According to the Mann (2009) test, the level of marital differences in families with an income of USD 1,000 or more is significantly lower than

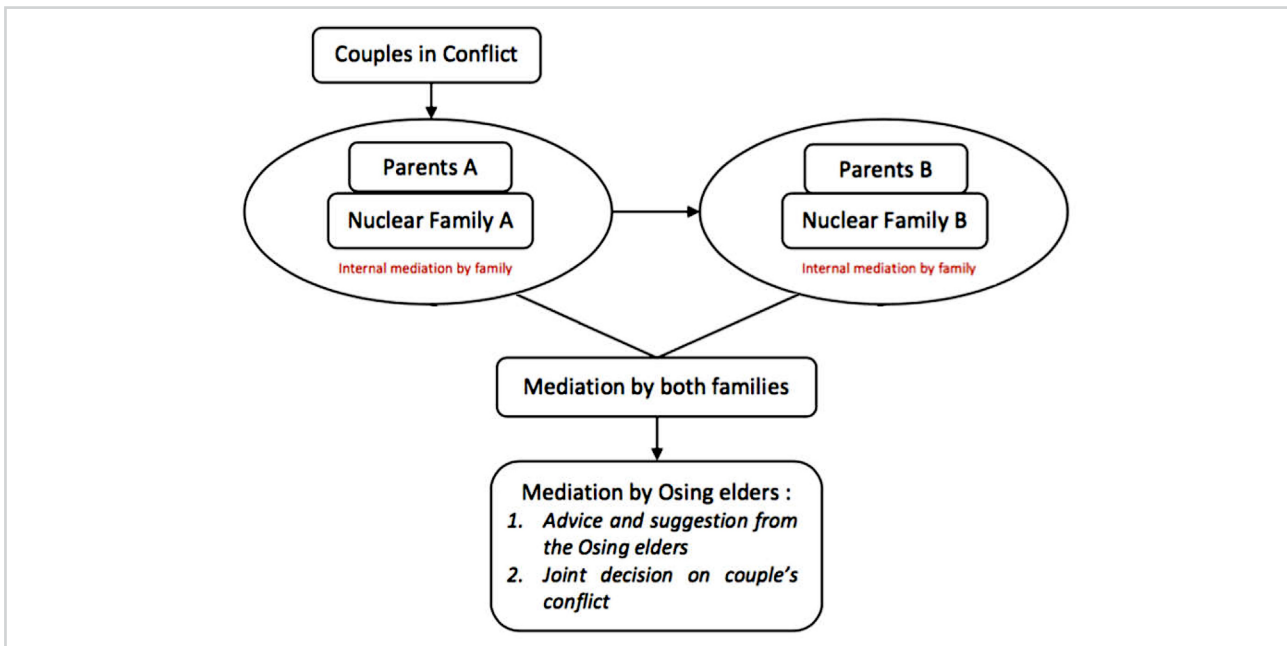


Figure 1:
Marital conflict mediation of Osing’s community

Source: Compiled by the authors

those with an income of less than USD 700. The level of economic differences among unemployed women with an income of less than USD 500 is lower than among employed women at the same income level. In contrast, unemployed women with an income of more than USD 500 have fewer economic differences than employed women. Therefore, relation of a significant relationship between family income and the difference in the lives of employed and unemployed women is confirmed.

There is a significant relationship between family income and the economic differences in the marital lives of employed and housewives. According to the questionnaire of 275 Osing women collected in 2020-2023, there is a significant relationship between family income and economic differences among both unemployed women at a significance level of 0.00 and among employed women at a significance level of 0.03. This means that at least at one of the income levels, there is a significant average difference between the family income level and the level of economic inequality, and among unemployed and employed women, an increase in income level is associated with a decrease in economic inequality (Table 2).

Table 2:
Analysis of variance between income and marital differences among Osing women

Variable		Mean income (USD)				F	sig
		Less 500	500-700	700-1000	More than 1000		
Marital differences	Unemployed women	3.11	2.95	2.66	2.35	8.72	0.00
	Employed women	3.01	2.96	2.75	2.51		

Source: Authors’ own research

4.3. Privacy control in conflict mediation of Osing community

As mentioned before, privacy control relate to the rules by which self-disclosure is managed. Privacy control also concern to how a private information are being governed whether being keep or disclose, with any consideration such as risk and benefit ratio, cultural expectation, gender differences, personal motivations, and situational demands that influence the sharing of information.

The risk and benefit ratio is a consideration for carrying out privacy controls. Selecting co-owners with certain criteria is part of a strategy for exercising privacy control. Participants who chose fellow women to share personal issues with close friends, sisters and biological mothers, did so with the consideration that women naturally do not easily share personal problems with other people, especially those of the opposite gender, so they can be trusted more. Likewise,

telling siblings and biological mothers, culturally there is an opinion that family conflict is a shame that must be kept secret from other people outside the family. Thus, telling trusted family members is the participants' choice so that the confidentiality of private information can be maintained.

As shown in Table 3, there is a significant relationship between family financial support and economic differences in the marital life of employed and housewives. Among employed and unemployed women, increasing family financial support reduces the level of economic differences when financial problems arise. This relationship is accepted at a significance level of 0.00 for unemployed women and at a significance level of 0.02 for employed women, and therefore this relation is confirmed in both groups of employed and unemployed women.

Privacy turbulence can occur when the rules agreed upon by the private owner and co-owner do not work as expected. The privacy management stage guides private owners to choose co-owners who can be trusted and choose which private information to disclose and keep confidential. This is done to prevent privacy turbulence, which poses a risk to confidentiality.

Table 3:
Correlation between family financial support and economic disparities among Osing women

Variable		Mean income (USD)				F	sig
		Less 500	500-700	700-1000	More than 1000		
Marital differences	Unemployed women	3.11	2.95	2.66	2.35	8.72	0.00
	Employed women	3.01	2.96	2.75	2.51	4.95	0.03

Source: Authors' own findings

5. Conclusion

Marital disputes and conflicts weaken the foundations of married life and cause the disintegration of the family. According to the present study, economic disputes are also one of the most effective and important factors in creating tension and disorder in the family. Therefore, considering the economic situation and inflation in society, it is necessary for each husband and wife to reach an agreement on financial issues before entering into married life, and since most disputes are over living expenses, each should contribute to paying the expenses within their financial capacity. Couples can avoid many unnecessary expenses that increase the scope of disputes.

The more individuals involved in conflict mediation, the more private information is kept confidential, and conversely the less private information is disclosed. This is a paradoxical situation, on the one hand the conflicting parties try to keep certain information secret, but on the other hand the involvement of many individuals who are co-owners increases the potential for private information to be revealed. If this happens, it can be concluded that the mediation process causes the context of privacy to be lost. However, the potential for private information to be revealed during the mediation process creates awareness to create a privacy communication management strategy by limiting the information disclosed during mediation, especially that which can worsen conflict situations. It is reasonable to suspect that local cultural values also influence privacy communication management strategies, especially in relation to efforts to maintain family harmony and kinship in the Osing community.

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Received 11.02.2024

Received in revised form 29.03.2024

Accepted 10.04.2024

Available online 29.06.2024