



The Influence of Father Involvement on The Preferences in Selecting A Life Partner in Early Adult Women

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Abstract

Mate selection is one of the developmental tasks in early adulthood. In this process, women tend to consider various factors when determining the criteria for an ideal partner. One factor that is assumed to influence mate selection preferences is father involvement. Father involvement refers to a father's positive participation in a child's life through various forms of direct involvement. This involvement includes providing emotional warmth, monitoring and controlling the child's activities, and taking responsibility for meeting the child's needs. This study aimed to examine the effect of father involvement on mate selection preferences among early adult women. This research employed a quantitative approach with simple linear regression as the data analysis technique. The participants consisted of 405 unmarried women aged 18 to 25 years who had biological fathers involved in their upbringing. The sampling technique used was purposive sampling. The instruments used in this study were the Father Involvement Scale and the Nine Mate Selection Question Scale. The results indicated that father involvement had a significant effect on mate selection preferences ($p < 0.05$). However, the contribution of this effect is relatively small, with an R^2 value of 0.0263 or 2.63%. These findings suggest that father involvement plays a role in shaping mate selection preferences among early adult women, but it is not the only determining factor.

Keywords: father involvement, early adult women, partner selection preferences

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Introduction

The stages of adulthood are divided into three: early adulthood, middle adulthood, and late adulthood. Early adulthood occurs between the ages of 18 and 25, and is characterized by exploratory and experimental activities (Santrock, 2011). One of the developmental tasks in early adulthood is choosing and finding a life partner. In the process of selecting a partner, individuals usually consider various criteria such as age, level of education, occupation, and other backgrounds as a basis for determining the choice of a life partner Havighurst (in Dariyo, 2008). At this stage, individuals are expected to be able to adjust to their new role as husband or wife. (Hurlock, 1980). This phenomenon of choosing a life partner is also linked to social conditions in Indonesia. According to data from the Central Statistics Agency, the proportion of women aged 20 to 24 who are married or living together nationally reaches 5.9% (BPS, 2025).

When choosing a life partner, each individual has specific preferences or criteria. Preferences in choosing a partner cannot be made carelessly, as these decisions will impact future married life. If an individual finds a life partner who meets their desired criteria, the bond within the relationship will strengthen. Thus, individuals will establish ideal standards in an effort to achieve mutual harmony (Prakoso et al., 2023). Women face difficulties in choosing a life partner due to the influence of various

preferences. One of the factors that plays a significant role in this process is self-esteem (Utami et al., 2023).

In general, the main criteria that are preferred in choosing a life partner are religion at 78.5%, partner's character at 68.35%, occupation at 38.3%, physical appearance at 37.1%, and region of origin at 10.1%. In this case, men tend to choose partners who have physical attractiveness, while women choose partners based on character, financial potential, and education level (Ansar & Siswanti, 2022). In line with research by Azmi and Hoesni (2019) Research shows that women tend to choose partners based on good financial prospects and who are older than them. Based on the above description, women tend to have more considerations and preferences when choosing a life partner than men. This confirms the complex process of choosing a life partner, especially for women in early adulthood who are developing relationships and commitments (Anwar & Nur, 2024).

Partner selection preferences are the criteria that form the basis of an individual's considerations in determining their life partner. (Townsend, (1993). These preferences serve as guidelines that influence how a person evaluates, chooses, and builds emotional relationships and long-term commitments. Lykken and Tellegen (1993) defines life partner preference as a process of selecting an individual who is expected to be both a life partner and a partner in raising future children. Thus, the choice of a life partner is not only based on feelings of love, but also on an orientation toward the future and relationship stability. DeGenova (2005) explains that mate selection is a selection process in which individuals evaluate, assess, and eliminate potential partners who are deemed unsuitable or unsuitable, until they finally find a partner who best aligns with their needs and preferences. Furthermore, Buss (1986) defines preference in choosing a partner as an individual's tendency to choose a potential partner who has similarities in a number of certain characteristics with themselves. Life partner preference is defined as certain criteria or characteristics that individuals prioritize in selecting a life partner who aligns with their values, beliefs, and expectations (Ratnani et al., 2021). Understanding these preferences is important because they reflect the psychological and social processes underlying a person's decision to enter a relationship with a partner.

The National Population and Family Planning Agency (BKKBN) recommends that the ideal age for marriage for women is between 20 and 25 years old. This recommendation is based on health, psychological, and social sciences (BKKBN, 2022). However, many women in this age range still delay marriage. One factor that can influence individuals to delay marriage is emotional attachment to their father figure. As many as 42.5% indicated that their father was a factor influencing them to delay marriage, because they described their father figure as a perfect man, able to provide a sense of security and protection (Mahfuzhatillah, 2018).

Marriage delays can also be influenced by incompatibility between individual values and those of their partner, family, and father (Putri, 2022). Father involvement is a factor in shaping partner preferences, especially in daughters. When fathers demonstrate emotional presence, support, and commitment in a marital relationship, they serve as positive models for daughters in understanding the meaning of closeness, affection, and relationship stability. Fathers are often daughters' first love figures, so emotional experiences from childhood can influence how they choose a partner (Anwar & Nur, 2024). As a result, it is not uncommon for daughters to be attracted to men who resemble their fathers, both physically, behaviorally, and in their romantic interactions. These findings align with research showing that daughters tend to choose partners who resemble their fathers, even at the biological level, such as body odor (Havlíček et al., 2023).

Father involvement is defined as a father's positive involvement in his child's life through various direct forms. This involvement includes providing emotional warmth, monitoring and controlling the child's activities, and taking responsibility for meeting the child's needs (Lamb, 2010). Furthermore, Hawkins et al. (2002) explain that father involvement is a multidimensional concept, encompassing affective, cognitive, ethical, and directly observable behavioral aspects, such as providing for the family and providing support for the mother. Abdullah (2012) Father involvement is defined as a form of active and ongoing participation by a father in the parenting process. This involvement includes interaction, initiative, and personal empowerment in the physical, cognitive, and affective dimensions, reflected in the child's developmental areas, such as physical, emotional, social, intellectual, and moral. Father

involvement in childcare can be carried out through communication, teaching, supervision, physical presence, planning and implementing joint activities, providing resources, providing affection, protection, and emotional support (Hedo, 2020). Father involvement describes the extent to which a father plays a role in various aspects of his child's life, which is reflected in the child's positive perception of the father's role, both in adolescence and adulthood (Finley & Schwartz, 2004).

Research conducted by Hidayati and Sari (2020) on 99 married subjects aged 18 to 25 years old showed that father involvement in parenting was positively related to an individual's level of intimacy with their partner. This finding confirms that positive experiences with a father can strengthen a person's ability to establish a warm and emotionally close relationship with their partner in adulthood. Furthermore, research conducted by Anwar and Nur (2024) using qualitative methods showed that the level of father involvement influences the image of life partner selection in daughters. Research conducted by Fiqrunnisa et al., (2023) showed no significant relationship between father involvement in parenting and life partner selection preferences in early adult women who experienced fatherlessness. Meanwhile, Satian and Khoiryasdien (2024) showed that there was a fairly strong positive relationship between father involvement and partner selection preferences. Meanwhile, research by Fauzana and Pratama (2023) showed that father involvement significantly contributed to increased self-esteem.

Previous studies have made important contributions to understanding the relationship between father involvement and partner selection preferences. However, there are still research gaps that need further study. Previous researchers have also suggested that future research focus on unmarried young adult women with fathers who are positively involved in parenting, and consider demographic factors such as domicile (Anwar & Nur, 2024; Fiqrunnisa et al., 2023). Although there are several studies on father involvement, studies specifically examining the influence of father involvement on partner selection preferences are still very limited. The majority of previous studies have focused more on the context of fatherlessness, father involvement on child well-being, father involvement on intimacy in relationships, father involvement on self-esteem and the relationship between fathers and social behavior. This study attempts to examine the influence of father involvement on life partner preferences in young adult women.

This research is expected to contribute to the development of psychology, particularly in enriching empirical studies. Furthermore, it can serve as a reference for counselors and family psychologists in understanding the role of fathers' parenting experiences in shaping daughters' preferences and partner criteria. For the public, especially fathers, this research is expected to raise awareness of the importance of father involvement in shaping daughters' mindsets and decisions regarding their choice of life partner. The purpose of this study was to determine the extent to which father involvement influences how young adult women form their preferences in choosing a life partner.

Methods

The approach used in this research is a quantitative approach. In general, quantitative research is a scientific approach that focuses on the collection and analysis of numerical data. The main objective of this approach is to test theories, prove hypotheses, and produce generalizable findings. Through the application of statistical methods, researchers attempt to identify patterns, causal relationships, and trends that emerge on a large scale (Rojabi, 2025). Through simple linear regression analysis, researchers can determine the extent of influence of the independent variable (X) on the dependent variable (Y).

Participants

The subjects in this study had the following characteristics: (1) female, (2) aged 18 to 25 years, (3) unmarried, and (4) having a biological father involved in childcare. The data collection process was carried out online through a questionnaire compiled using Google Forms, then distributed through social media to reach participants.

The sampling technique used in this study was purposive sampling. Purposive sampling is a non-probability sampling technique where the researcher deliberately selects samples based on certain

characteristics deemed most relevant to the research objectives (Asrulla et al., 2023). Because the population size is unknown or unlimited, the sample size in this study was determined using the Lemeshow (1991) formula. The minimum sample size required in this study was 384 respondents.

Table 1. Description of Research Subjects (N= 405)

Category	Frequency	Percentage
Age		
18 years	14	3.5%
19 years old	12	3.0%
20 years	38	9.4%
21 years	124	30.6%
22 years	152	37.5%
23 years	46	11.4%
24 years old	12	3.0%
25 years	7	1.7%
Main Activities		
Student	326	80.5%
Worker	32	7.9%
Students and Workers	30	7.4%
High School/Vocational School/Equivalent	14	3.5%
Doesn't work	3	0.7%
Current living conditions with Father		
Currently living at home with father	224	55.3%
Not currently living at home with father	181	44.7%
Reasons for not living at home with Dad		
Pursuing Education	151	82.1%
Father works outside the city/country	18	9.8%
I work outside the city/country	15	8.2%
Relationship status		
Bachelor	259	64.0%
Dating	138	34.1%
Engaged	8	2.0%
Total	405	100%

Based on Table 1, the description of the research subjects, it is known that the number of participants in this study was 405, and all participants were female. Viewed from the age category, the majority of participants were in the 22-year-old age range with a respondent frequency of 152 or 37.5%. For the main activity of the participants, the majority were students with a respondent frequency of 326 or 80.5%. Furthermore, based on the current living conditions with their fathers, the majority of participants were living at home with their fathers with a respondent frequency of 224 or 55.3%, while 181 or 44.7% were not living with their fathers. The main reason for not living at home with their fathers was because the majority of participants were studying with a respondent frequency of 151 or 82.1%. Viewed from relationship status, the majority of participants were single with a respondent frequency of 259 or 64.0%.

Research Instruments

This study uses two variables to be studied, namely the independent variable (X) and the dependent variable (Y). The independent variable (X) in this study is father involvement while the dependent variable (Y) in this study is partner selection preferences. Researchers define father involvement as a form of direct involvement of a father in various aspects of a child's life, both physically, emotionally, and socially. This involvement includes positive participation of the father in parenting activities, providing emotional support, and responsibility for the child's welfare. Father involvement describes the extent to which the father is involved in the child's growth and development process through warm interactions, supervision and control of the child, and responsibility for the child's needs and requirements.

To measure the variable (X) father involvement, researchers used the Father Involvement Scale. Compiled by Ramadhani (2020), this scale is based on three aspects of father involvement from Lamb (2010), namely engagement, accessibility, responsibility. The instrument initially consisted of 36 items. After being tested by Ramadhani (2020), only 27 items with 17 items being favorable and 10 items being unfavorable were declared valid with a reliability value of 0.917. One example of an item on this scale is "All my daily needs are financed by my father". This instrument uses a Likert scale consisting of four alternative answer choices, namely from (1) "Strongly Disagree" to (4) "Strongly Agree". Favorable items are scored with a range of 4 to 1, while unfavorable items are scored in reverse, namely from 1 to 4. Based on the results of the try out conducted by the researcher, it is known that the Father Involvement scale has a reliability value of 0.917. Cronbach's α is 0.953, so it can be declared reliable for use in this study.

Meanwhile, variable (Y), partner selection preferences, is defined as the tendencies or considerations used by individuals, particularly young adult women, in determining the criteria for an ideal life partner. These preferences include aspects of personality, values, parental involvement, responsibility, economic status, loyalty, and emotional and social compatibility.

The variable (Y) of partner selection preference will be measured using the Nine Mate Selection Question Scale from Townsend (1993). This scale covers three aspects, namely social and economic status preferences, attractiveness preferences, and partner support preferences. Then the scale was modified by Indriyani (2024) by following the appropriate adaptation procedure, namely the scale was translated through a language center, conducting expert judgment from psychology experts, resulting in a Cronbach's alpha reliability value of 0.755. One example of an item on this scale is "I will marry someone who earns more than me". This instrument consists of 9 items with 7 items being favorable and 2 items being unfavorable. This instrument uses a Likert scale consisting of four alternative answer choices, namely from (1) "Strongly Disagree" to (4) "Strongly Agree". The favorable items are scored with a range of 4 to 1, while the unfavorable items are scored in reverse, namely from 1 to 4. Based on the results of the tryout that has been conducted by the researcher, it is known that the Nine Mate Selection Question scale has a reliability value Cronbach's α is 0.743, so it can be declared reliable for use in this study.

Data Analysis Techniques

The procedure in this research is carried out through three main stages: the first stage is research preparation, the second stage is research implementation, and the final stage is data analysis. The preparation stage begins with determining the theme and identifying a problem or phenomenon to be studied. Next, the researcher conducts a review of previous research and literature relevant to the research variables, then determines a title that fits the focus of the problem. After that, the researcher compiles the background, formulates the problem, and explains the urgency of the research, the novelty of the research as a differentiator from previous studies, and establishes the objectives and benefits of the research.

The researcher also developed a theoretical study relevant to the two variables as a conceptual basis for explaining the dynamics between the variables studied. The theoretical study served as a reference in developing a conceptual framework and formulating research hypotheses. This stage also determined the research population and sample, as well as the sampling technique, selected the method used in the data collection process, and determined the research instruments. Prior to the research implementation stage, the researcher submitted a permission request via email or social media to the scale creator and the researcher who had modified the scale to be used, to obtain approval for use and ensure that the instruments used complied with ethical and academic regulations. Furthermore, the researcher conducted a trial run of the two research scales to ensure the instruments' suitability before use in the data collection stage.

The second stage is the implementation of the research. This stage focuses on the data collection process by distributing the research scale to subjects who meet the established criteria. Data collection was carried out through filling out an online questionnaire created using Google Forms. Then the questionnaire link was distributed through various social media platforms, such as WhatsApp,

Instagram, TikTok, and X to reach respondents who met the research criteria. The questionnaire distribution process in this study was carried out between January 15 and January 31, 2026, and obtained a total of 405 respondents.

The final stage is analyzing the data obtained from the data collection results using JAMOV 2.7.12. Before conducting a simple linear regression analysis, the researcher first conducted a normality test to ensure that the data was normally distributed, a linearity test to test whether the relationship between the independent variable and the dependent variable formed a linear pattern, and a heteroscedasticity test to test whether there was inequality of variance in the regression model from one observation residual to another. These three tests are classical assumption tests that are requirements in a simple linear regression analysis. After the data met the assumptions, the researcher conducted a simple linear regression analysis to determine the magnitude of the influence or significance of the independent variable, namely father involvement, on the dependent variable, namely the preference for choosing a life partner.

Results

In this study, data collection was carried out by distributing a questionnaire scale online by filling in *Google Form*. Through this data collection, researchers obtained 405 respondents, all of whom were female and met the research criteria. The following is an explanation of the research results from the analytical testing conducted.

Table 2. Results of Empirical Categorization Analysis of *Father Involvement* and Partner Selection Preferences

Variables	Mean	Standard Deviation	Category	Interval	Frequency	%
<i>Father Involvement</i>	88.2	11.9	Low	< 76.3	65	16.0%
			Currently	$76.3 \leq X < 100.1$	289	71.4%
			Tall	≥ 100.1	51	12.6%
Preference Partner Selection	28.6	3.74	Low	< 24.86	54	13.3%
			Currently	$24.86 \leq X < 32.34$	293	72.3%
			Tall	≥ 32.34	58	14.3%

Note . N = 405

Based on Table 2 related to the empirical categorization analysis of the *father involvement* variable and the partner selection preference variable, this study involved 405 respondents. For the *father involvement* variable, the average value (M) was 88.2 with a standard deviation (SD) of 11.9. Based on the empirical category grouping, the majority of respondents were in the medium category ($76.3 \leq X < 100.1$), namely 289 respondents or 71.4%. Meanwhile, respondents included in the low category (< 76.3) were 65 respondents or 16.0%, and the high category (≥ 100.1) were 51 respondents or 12.6%. This finding indicates that in general the level of *father involvement* felt by respondents tended to be in the medium category.

Meanwhile, the variable of partner selection preference obtained an average value (M) of 28.6 with a standard deviation (SD) of 3.74. The categorization results show that the majority of respondents are also in the medium category ($24.86 \leq X < 32.34$), namely 293 respondents or 72.3%. Meanwhile, respondents included in the low category (< 24.86) were 54 respondents or 13.3%, and the high category (≥ 32.34) were 58 respondents or 14.3%.

Table 3. Normality Test (Kolmogorov-Smirnov)

Statistics	p
0.0405	0.519

The normality test was conducted to determine whether the data obtained in this study were normally distributed or not. In this study, the researcher used two methods for normality analysis, namely Kolmogorov-Smirnov and visual analysis of QQ Plot on *standardized residuals*. Based on the results of the data normality test using Kolmogorov-Smirnov presented in Table 3, a statistical value of 0.0405 was obtained with a significance value (*p-value*) of 0.519. Because the *p-value* is greater than 0.05 ($p > 0.05$), it can be concluded that the research data are normally distributed. In addition, to strengthen the results of the normality test, the researcher also conducted a visual analysis using QQ Plot. The results of the QQ Plot analysis show that the distribution of data points tends to follow a diagonal line and does not show any deviations. Thus, it can be visually stated that the standardized residuals have a distribution that is close to a normal distribution.

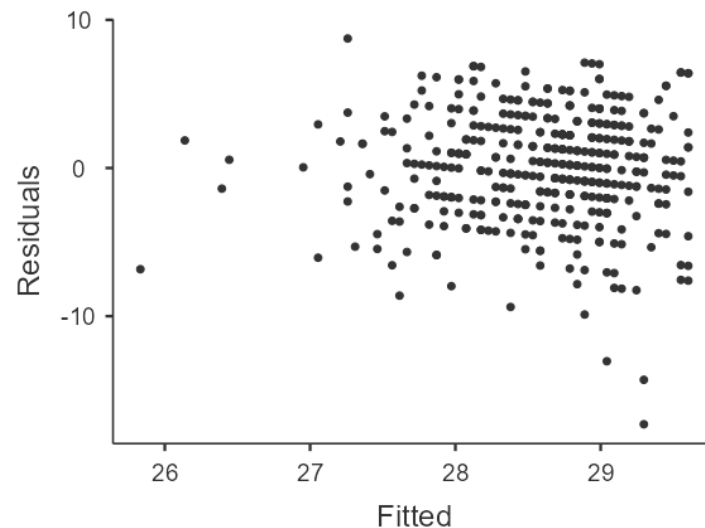


Figure 1. Linearity Test (Residuals Plot)

A linearity test was conducted to determine whether there is a linear relationship between the independent and dependent variables in the regression analysis. Figure 2 shows that the residuals are randomly distributed around the zero horizontal line and do not form a specific pattern, such as a curved or arc-like pattern. Therefore, based on the results of the graphical analysis, it can be concluded that the relationship between *father involvement* and *mate preference* is linear and meets the assumption of linearity.

Heteroscedasticity test is conducted to determine whether in the regression model there is inequality of variance from the residuals of one observation to another observation. Based on the results of the heteroscedasticity test using the Breusch-Pagan method, a statistical value of 1.57 was obtained with a significance value (*p-value*) of 0.211, because the significance value is greater than 0.05 ($p > 0.05$), so it can be stated that the regression model does not experience heteroscedasticity problems.

Table 4. Simple Linear Regression Test Results

Model	R	R ²	F	Overall Model Test		
				df1	df2	p
1	0.162	0.0263	10.9	1	403	0.001

Note . N = 405

Coefficients

Predictor	Estimate	SE	t	p	Stand. Estimate
Intercept	24.0992	1.3758	17.52	<.001	
FI	0.0510	0.0155	3.30	0.001	0.162

A simple linear regression test was conducted to determine the effect of the independent variable (*father involvement*) on the dependent variable (partner selection preference). Based on the results of the simple linear regression analysis in Table 4, the R^2 value obtained was 0.0263, indicating that *the father involvement variable* contributes 2.63% to the partner selection preference variable, while the remaining 97.37% is influenced by other factors outside this research model. The results of the simultaneous model feasibility test show an F value of 10.9 with a significance value of $p = 0.001$ ($p < 0.05$). This indicates that the regression model used is statistically significant and appropriate to explain the relationship between the predictor variables and the dependent variable. In the regression coefficient table, *the intercept* (constant) has a value b_0 of 24.0992 with a significance of $p < 0.001$ ($p < 0.05$), which indicates that when *the father involvement variable* is zero, the partner selection preference score is predicted to be 24.0992. Meanwhile, the *father involvement variable* has a regression coefficient (b_1) of 0.0510, with $SE\alpha = 0.0155$, $t = 3.30$ and $p = 0.001$ ($p < 0.05$), meaning that every one unit increase in *father involvement* will be followed by an increase of 0.0510 in the partner selection preference score. The standardized beta coefficient (β) value of 0.162 indicates that the direction of the relationship is positive with a relatively low influence strength. Thus, it can be concluded that *father involvement* has a significant influence on partner selection preferences in early adult women, although its contribution is relatively small.

Discussion

This study aimed to examine the influence of father involvement on mate preferences in early adult women. The analysis showed that father involvement significantly influenced mate preferences, but with a relatively small contribution of 2.63%. Although significant, the magnitude of this influence is relatively small, so father involvement cannot be considered a primary factor fully determining mate choice.

The results of research conducted by Satian and Khoiryasdien (2024) showed a positive relationship between father involvement and life partner preferences in daughters. These findings reinforce the assumption that warm and responsive interaction experiences also have the potential to influence how individuals build closeness, set partner standards, and maintain intimate relationships after marriage. Research conducted by Anwar and Nur (2024) also stated that the description of life partner preferences in daughters is influenced by father involvement, respondents tend to want a partner like their father. This is in line with research by Hidayati and Sari (2020) which showed a significant positive relationship between father involvement and intimacy with husbands in early adult women, the higher the father involvement, the higher the intimacy with husbands.

In the opinion of Lamb et al. (1985) father involvement refers to the father's involvement in parenting which includes three aspects, namely (1) engagement, this aspect is reflected through joint activities such as playing, discussing, or activities that build emotional closeness, the emphasis of this aspect lies in the quality of time and communication that is truly established between father and child, not just physical presence without meaningful interaction; (2) accessibility, this aspect refers to the father's availability to the child, both physically and psychologically. In this aspect, the father is not always directly involved in activities, but remains present and accessible when the child needs support, attention, or protection, this aspect emphasizes the father's presence and availability as a reliable figure; (3) Responsibility, this aspect relates to the father's responsibility in ensuring the child's overall needs, these responsibilities include parenting planning, providing financial support, decision-making, and responsibilities related to the child's welfare and future.

These three aspects not only play a role in supporting a child's emotional and social development but also contribute to shaping individual standards in choosing a partner. This is in line with research conducted by Novi (2024), which shows that father involvement makes an effective contribution of 49.63% to the preferences for choosing a life partner in early adult women. The magnitude of this contribution indicates that the father's role in the parenting process can have a significant influence on the formation of standards and criteria for life partners, especially when analyzed simultaneously with other psychological variables, such as self-esteem. For girls, the father is the first male figure present in their lives and serves as a standard for girls in understanding male characteristics and behavior.

Experiences of interaction with fathers play a role in shaping standards regarding attitudes and treatment that are acceptable and those that should be avoided from other men. Therefore, when girls lose a father figure, it tends to disrupt gender roles and impact girls' psychological well-being (Wandansari et al., 2021).

However, the relatively small contribution indicates that father involvement is not a major factor directly determining partner selection preferences in early adult women. This suggests that fathers still play a role in the process of forming partner selection preferences, although their influence is not large and does not stand as the sole determining factor. Based on the concept of parental image in a psychodynamic perspective which emphasizes that experiences in childhood play a role in shaping individual tendencies when choosing a partner in adulthood. This concept is based on Freud's psychoanalytic theory through the concepts of Oedipus and Electra Complex, which explains that parental figures, including fathers, can influence partner selection and classifies that daughters will seek partners who have characteristics similar to their fathers, and vice versa that sons will seek partners who have characteristics similar to their mothers (DeGenova & Rice, 2005).

Besides father involvement, according to DeGenova and Rice (2005), two factors influence partner preferences: family background and personal characteristics. Family background includes socioeconomic status, education and intelligence, as well as race and religion. Socioeconomic status also influences women's expectations for marital stability and satisfaction. Excessive differences in socioeconomic status often create stress and potential conflict in relationships. This is supported by research by Fakari et al. (2022), which shows that higher economic status is associated with higher levels of marital satisfaction. Furthermore, Fachrina and Miko (2025) also state that socioeconomic status contributes to the dynamics of marital conflict.

Furthermore, education level also influences how individuals evaluate potential partners. Marriages between individuals with equal educational levels are typically more harmonious and stable (DeGenova, 2005). Consistent with this, research findings indicate that early adult women are in the middle category in their preference for educational or intelligence aspects of their partners (42.4%). This finding illustrates that women prefer college-educated partners as an important criterion in partner selection (Astana et al., 2023).

Race and religion also influence preferences in choosing a life partner. In the context of Indonesian society, religion not only functions as a spiritual identity, but also serves as a basis for shaping individual values, beliefs, and behavioral patterns in everyday life. Research by Septi et al., (2024) states that religion is seen as an important aspect because it has an influence on a person's life, including in determining the direction and goals of family life. Most respondents in the study also believed that religious similarity should be considered as a benchmark in choosing a partner, especially because a partner is expected to be able to lead and maintain family harmony.

Personal characteristics such as traits and behaviors, age, similar attitudes and values, as well as gender roles and personal habits also influence how a person sets preferences in choosing a life partner (DeGenova, 2005). This is in line with research conducted by Burtăverde and Ene (2021) which shows that women tend to prioritize men who are oriented towards long-term relationships, have pleasant personalities, and demonstrate parenting skills, such as kindness and ability to work together. In addition, research conducted by Anwar and Nur (2024) shows that respondents want to choose partners who have many similarities, in this case there is the concept of consensus and similarity of attitudes and values or compatibility in relationships, if both individuals have similar views, principles, and values, the relationship tends to feel more comfortable, and it is easier to adjust and understand each other.

Research by Azmi and Hoesni (2019) shows that men and women have different characteristics in choosing a life partner, men tend to consider physical appearance and younger age when choosing a partner, while women are generally attracted to partners who are older and have good financial prospects. In addition, research conducted by Ratnani et al., (2021) shows that men and women also have different priority characteristics in choosing a partner, women have a number of criteria that are considered important in choosing a life partner, such as religiousness occupying the top position, then good nature and understanding, family background, intelligence, physical health, attractive personality,

financial stability, having an attractive physical appearance, etc. Meanwhile, research by Anwar and Nur (2024) stated that respondents wanted to have a partner with an attractive physical appearance.

This study examines preferences in choosing a life partner by focusing on three main aspects proposed by (Townsend, 1993), namely socioeconomic status, physical attractiveness, and willingness to support a partner. Although father involvement has a relatively small influence on preferences for choosing a life partner, this study shows an important finding that the aspect of willingness to support a partner is the dominant aspect in partner selection preferences in early adult women (41.2%), followed by physical attractiveness (29.6%) and socioeconomic status (29.1%). These results indicate that early adult women tend not to support if their partner has a desire not to work, even if the woman has a high income or socioeconomic status. This is in line with the research of Townsend (1989) which found that men are more agreeable if women do not work and stay at home, but conversely women do not approve if men do not work and stay at home even if the woman has a high income and is sufficient to meet daily living needs.

Based on the research results, it can be concluded that there is a significant difference, when compared with Novi's (2024) findings, which showed that father involvement contributed 49.63%, while in this study the contribution was relatively small, only 2.63%. This difference indicates that the influence of father involvement on life partner preferences in early adult women is contextual and influenced by subject characteristics, intermediary variables, and sociocultural background conditions.

This study has the advantage of a relatively large number of participants, providing sufficient statistical power for data analysis, and subject characteristics that align with the research objectives. Furthermore, this study specifically examines the influence of father involvement on mate selection preferences. However, there are limitations that need to be considered, one of which is the possibility that the instrument used may not fully represent the complexity of the construct being measured, potentially affecting the small contribution of the effect found. Furthermore, the subject screening process, which initially only involved individuals with fathers involved in parenting, also limited data variation. The online data collection method also has the potential to introduce bias due to respondent subjectivity. Therefore, this study contributes to the development of science by confirming that father involvement is not the sole determining factor in the formation of mate selection preferences, but rather one factor that interacts with family background and personal characteristics.

Conclusions and Implication

This study aims to determine the extent of influence of father involvement on life partner preferences in early adult women. Based on the results of a simple linear regression analysis, it can be concluded that father involvement significantly influences life partner preferences in early adult women. Father involvement in parenting can shape emotional experiences that play a role in how women view and determine life partner criteria. However, this influence is relatively small, indicating that father involvement is not the sole factor determining partner preferences. These preferences are formed through a complex process and are influenced by other factors, such as family background, social and economic status, education level, shared values, religion, and personal characteristics. In addition, early adult women tend to consider the aspect of a partner's willingness to support in choosing a life partner. This illustrates that women not only consider socioeconomic and physical status, but also assess a partner's willingness to work and fulfill the responsibilities of living a family.

These findings contribute to the development of psychology, particularly in the fields of developmental and family psychology, by confirming that father involvement is a factor that plays a role in shaping partner selection preferences, although not the primary factor. This research can also be used to educate fathers about involvement in parenting, as this experience can form the basis for shaping daughters' relationship patterns in adulthood, particularly in choosing a life partner. The implication of this study is the need for further research by adding other variables that have the potential to act as moderating or mediating variables to analyze other factors that may influence partner selection preferences, so that the relationships between variables can be understood more deeply. Furthermore, it is recommended that future research use mixed methods by combining quantitative and qualitative approaches, so as not only

to determine the magnitude of the statistical effect but also to understand the subjective experiences of young adult women in interpreting father involvement and the process of choosing a life partner. Future research is also recommended to use more comprehensive and culturally appropriate instruments, and to consider a wider variety of subject characteristics.

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Authors' contributions

All authors work collaboratively and evenly.

Competing Interest

There is no conflict of interest.

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We have obtained informed consent from all individuals included in this study through google form.

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