

ABSTRACT

Humans are social beings who need the presence of others in their lives. Marriage is important as a means of fulfilling social, emotional, and spiritual needs. Through marriage, humans gain a life partner, support, and a sense of security in living their lives. However, what if marriage does not provide a sense of security but rather a fear known as Gamophobia. Gamophobia is a new phenomenon in Indonesia, one that contradicts the traditional norms prevalent in society. This study aims to explore the meaning of marriage among Generation Z individuals experiencing Gamophobia using a qualitative method with a phenomenological approach. Data collection was conducted over a three-month period through in-depth interviews. The findings reveal that the meaning of marriage for Generation Z individuals with Gamophobia is no longer viewed as a social obligation or a life milestone, but rather as a personal decision that considers emotional and financial readiness. Negative experiences, family trauma, and negative narratives on social media reinforce fear and doubt toward marriage. This finding reveals a shift in the values associated with marriage among Generation Z individuals with Gamophobia, thereby enriching the literature on how the meaning of marriage is shaped through social interaction and symbolic exchange within the current social context.

Keywords: Meaning of Marriage, Gamophobia, Symbolic Interaction, Phenomenology, Generation Z