



A Comparative Study of the Meaning of Life Between the Potential Elderly and the Abandoned Elderly in Greater Bandung

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Abstract

The elderly should be able to accept the changes however, according to Permensos No. 19 of 2012, the elderly grouped consisting of potential elderly and abandoned elderly are faced two different problems. The purpose of this study is to obtain a comparative picture of the dynamics of the meaning of life between potential elderly and abandoned elderly in Greater Bandung. The subjects of this study are four people consisting of two elderly from each type. This study used qualitative method, case study approach, with purposive sampling through interviews, observations, and documentation. The validity test used triangulation with the reliability test used dependability. The results of this study show that the two elderly have a meaningful life, the potential elderly are superior in the theme of freedom of will and meaning of life, while the abandoned elderly are superior in the theme of desire to live a meaningful life and expressing emotions.

Keywords: The meaning of life, potential elderly, abandoned elderly.

1. Introduction

Just like childhood, which is in the golden age stage during the first six years of life, the golden age is also important for the elderly. This is because not all individuals can reach old age, so when someone is elderly, they will require better care that is both promotive and preventive, so that the elderly can enjoy their golden years and become healthy, productive, useful, and happy seniors (Chia et al., 2023).

However, not all elderly people are able to perceive their golden years positively because they often face several issues such as: being considered an economic burden, psychologically he elderly often feel frustrated due to their inability to perform activities they used to do frequently, socially the elderly want to be valued and respected in society because they have more experiences, and physically the elderly often experience one or more types of degenerative diseases such as alzheimer's, diabetes, rheumatism, etc., and psychologically, the elderly experience various disabilities that require assistance from others in both the short and long term (Noto, 2023).

The Ministry of Health of the Republic of Indonesia stated that Indonesia is currently entering a period of aging population, where there is an increase in the population from 18 million people in 2010 to 48.2 million people in 2023. The increase in the population has also resulted in an increase in the average life expectancy to 74 years. However, the increase in the number and life expectancy of the elderly can pose different problems for the elderly. Based on Law No. 12 of 1998 and Minister of Social Affairs Regulation No. 19 of 2012, the elderly are categorized according to their ability to lead an elderly life and are viewed from the guidelines for elderly social services, namely potential elderly and abandoned elderly.

Potential elderly are those elderly individuals who can still be economically and socially productive and are provided opportunities to access education, training, and job opportunities (Sakernas, 2011). Abandoned elderly are elderly individuals who, due to certain factors (lack of resources for living, employment, income, and even not having family members), cannot meet their basic needs both spiritually, socially, and physically, such as clothing, food, and shelter, thus being considered one of the cases of social welfare issues (PMKS) among 26 other types (Minister of Social Affairs Regulation No. 08 of 2012).

Elderly residents should be expected to age happily and enjoy their old age as stated in the President of the Republic of Indonesia Regulation Number 88 of 2021 concerning the National Strategy for the Elderly, however contrary to the issues that often arise in potential seniors is that even though they are still productively working, it

adversely affects their physical condition, making them more vulnerable to health problems both physically and mentally. In contrast, the issues often faced by abandoned elderly individuals are usually caused by family rejection, for example, due to economic incapacitation, resulting in elderly family members being entrusted to government institutions such as nursing homes, followed by financial barriers, separation from partners due to divorce or death, and the absence of children and close relatives.

If the elderly often face various conflicts such as fatigue from work or continuous neglect by their families, it can lead to several psychological conditions such as loss of interest, lack of initiative, feelings of emptiness, feeling like they have no purpose in life, and suicidal thoughts (Wulansari & Suwarjo, 2023). This condition is a period of failure for the elderly in achieving a meaningful life. The failure to find and fulfill the meaning of life usually results in an experience of life without meaning (meaningless). Therefore, it is important for the elderly to find meaning in their lives because if they are capable, they will easily adapt and have a positive outlook on their lives.

Therefore, this study has become the interest of the researchers because there are still many contrasts between the different conditions of potential elderly and abandoned elderly, Indonesia's condition entering into an aging population, potential elderly who are still actively working compared to their partners, as well as abandoned elderly who have been bedridden and have to rely on social services to meet their basic needs, which forms the basis for the researchers to examine the significance of their lives.

2. Literature Review

Potential elderly are elderly individuals who are still capable of carrying out work and/or activities that can produce goods and/or services (Sumini et al., 2020). Therefore, the elderly considered to be potential are those who can still perform a job where they are able to meet their daily needs, and may still be said to be less than optimal in fulfilling their needs, especially since they are of advanced age and cannot perform heavy work. Criteria for potential elderly:

- a) Elderly individuals who are still economically and socially productive and have opportunities to access education, training, and job opportunities.
- b) Elderly people who economically receive income from family members or pension funds and personal business.

The negative impact for elderly people who are still working is that they may experience mental stress because they have to be able to meet their needs independently, face health issues such as fatigue due to performing heavy work while their physical function has already declined (Mutambudzi & Henkens, 2020). In contrast, the problems that often occur with abandoned elderly individuals are usually caused by family rejection, for example, due to economic inability, leading to older family members being placed in government institutions like nursing homes. This is followed by financial obstacles, separation from partners caused by divorce or death, and the absence of children and close relatives (Barbaccia et al., 2022).

According to the research by Sulaeha et al. (2018), abandoned elderly people living in home care can actually engage in activities according to their desires, have more opportunities to excel because they usually build good relationships with peers, and are often associated with the negative emotions experienced in the form of sadness when reminiscing about their deceased partners. There are also abandoned elderly individuals living in shelters, usually caused by family rejection, which occurs among the poor to upper-middle class. Families refuse to care for the elderly due to various factors such as the family's inability to provide care, the perception that the elderly are a burden to the family, and the lack of time for children to care for parents who are physically and psychologically frail.

In a previous comparative study regarding the differences in the meaning of life among the elderly living in nursing homes and those living with their families, it was found that elderly individuals living with their families tend to feel valued, treated well, happy, and deserving of life, whereas those living in nursing homes feel that there is an unfulfilled part of their lives, which is the presence of family (Boucaud-Maitre et al., 2024). This is emphasized by recent research which states that the average quality of life for those living with family is higher than that of the elderly living in nursing homes.

According to the Central Statistics Agency in 2022, the meaning of life is one of the dimensions that make up the happiness index in Indonesian society. Each dimension index that constitutes happiness consists of:

- a) life satisfaction with a percentage of 75.16%.
- b) Emotions with a percentage of 65.61%.
- c) Meaning of life with a percentage of 73.12%.

Although the meaning of life ranks second as a dimension contributing to the happiness of Indonesian society, the age group of 60 years and above has the lowest percentage of meaning of life at 69.47% compared to other age groups, this means that many elderly people have not been able to give meaning to their lives well in their old age.

The freedom of will, is the freedom to shape one's attitude in responding to biological, psychological, and sociocultural conditions, and it must also be balanced with responsibility so that it does not evolve into arbitrariness. The will to meaning, is human desire to become a useful and valuable person for oneself, family, and the surrounding environment that can motivate people to continue creating, working, and engaging in other important activities so that

their lives are meaningful and lived to the fullest, eventually leading to happiness and satisfaction in living life. The meaning of life, which is real, can be found through experience and everyday life, both hidden and direct, as well as other distinctive features of meaning in life, can become direction and guidance so that individuals who have meaning in life have a clear and challenging goal to fulfill.

3. Method

Researchers used qualitative research methods, is a method aimed at exploring and understanding the meanings of individuals and groups of people who are considered to stem from humanitarian or social issues. With a comparative case study approach, which is a research method that involves in-depth analysis of two or more selected cases aimed at understanding the differences and similarities among them (Lima & Newell-McLymont, 2021). This approach allows researchers to investigate cases that have distinctive characteristics or specific contexts and then make comparisons to gain deeper insights. Comparative case study adopts what is called a process orientation, which tends to view the world in the context of people, situations, events, and the processes that connect them all.

In this study, several reasons for the need for comparative case studies are:

- a) It has a uniqueness in the form of collective cases found in the characteristics of the sample where potential elderly people in Bandung Regency are more active in working compared to their partners, while abandoned elderly in Bandung City have to rely on local agencies for fulfilling one or more of their basic needs.
- b) Focusing on Greater Bandung because this city has been declared as an elderly-friendly city by the Acting Regional Assistant in June 2022 with a total elderly population reaching 880 thousand people.
- c) Seeing the condition of Indonesia which has entered the aging population period, in the context of the 28th National Elderly Day (HLUN) commemoration, the BKKBN in collaboration with the Indonesia Friendly Elderly Foundation is working towards empowering the establishment of 88 elderly schools in Elderly Family Development (SL-BKL) that will have a curriculum to keep the elderly healthy and still able to learn despite being old, these elderly schools will also be spread across 27 districts/cities in West Java, including Greater Bandung.

The technique used for selecting research subjects employs purposive sampling, which is chosen based on specific goals and considerations. Using purposive sampling technique consisting of a total of 4 respondents, namely 2 potential elderly individuals in Margaasih District, Bandung Regency, and 2 abandoned elderly individuals living in the Social Services of Bandung City, based on the consideration of sample characteristics referring to potential elderly individuals who are still actively working and elderly people who are abandoned and can no longer meet one or several of their basic needs, who will later delve deeper into the comparison of how they interpret life.

Researchers used triangulation and dependability testing to determine and test the validity of the data in this study. Triangulation in credibility testing is defined as checking data from various sources using different methods and times. The researcher uses source triangulation, which involves matching and rechecking the degree of trust in information obtained through different times and tools in qualitative research. The triangulation process that will be carried out in the research are:

- a) Conduct cross-checking of the interview data from participants with the interview results of significant persons
- b) Re-check the answers with the participants if there are statements that are unclear or ambiguous. While for the validity examination of the dependability data, it is used where others repeat or replicate the research process so that it can be said to be reliable by auditing the phenomenon of the problem, determining the sources of data and the research time, conducting data analysis, testing the validity of the data, and making research conclusions.

Henceforth, the data processing stage uses semi-structured interviews, unstructured observations, and documentation.

- a) Semi-structured interviews, is a process of interviewing that uses an interview guide developed from the topic and asks questions in a more flexible manner than structured interviews, where the subjects being studied can provide free and unrestricted answers but must not go off the course of the predetermined theme.
- b) Unstructured observations, is an observation that is not systematically prepared about what will be observed, this is done because the researcher does not know for sure what will be observed.
- c) Documentation, where the results of interview and observation research will be more credible/trustworthy if supported by various documents such as life history, biography, and photos.

Various techniques used:

- a) Data reduction

This means summarizing, selecting key points, focusing on important matters, identifying themes and patterns. The data reduction in this research focuses on categorizing potential elderly individuals and abandoned elderly individuals based on internal and external factors that influence their meaningfulness of life, culminating in grouping the subjects' responses into various themes.

- b) Data display

The presentation of qualitative data can be done in the form of brief descriptions, charts, relationships between categories, flowcharts, and the like. The data presented in this study is in the form of a Venn diagram to compare the similarities and differences in the research results obtained from two different categories of elderly.

c) Coding

It is the classification of answers given by participants according to their type. In the coding stage, it is usually conducted by assigning scores and symbols in the form of numbers or letters that provide clues to each respondent's answer based on the variables being studied. Since this research is qualitative with open-ended questions, (1) participant answers are examined to create certain answer categories, (2) if the answers need to be categorized, appropriate categories need to be created, and (3) each category is assigned a code.

4. Result

4.1. Subject Profiles

- a) E (female, 62 y.o), potential elderly that already lived with her husband for 37 years and had 2 children, 3 grandchildren, she was master's degree graduate in Nursing who has worked as a nurse and is currently working as a principal at a kindergarten, being a lecturer, and involved in several organizational management.
- b) H (male, 63 y.o), potential elderly that already lived with his wife for 30 years and had 3 children, 1 grandchild, he was high school graduate who has worked at IPTN, PLN, and is currently working as a travel agent for umrah at Lantabur Amanah Corporation.
- c) A (female, 70 y.o), abandoned elderly that had been married five times, had a child who has passed away, and currently has a fiancé. Before living in social service, she worked as a placement agent for Indonesian migrant workers and as a goods credit dealer. The factors causing abandonment E at the Social Service are due to the fact that he initially had an accident, then she was taken from the hospital to the social service because there were no relatives able to take care of her, and she has been staying there for 2 months.
- d) S (male, 71 y.o), abandoned elderly that was married once but he was left his wife because she cheated with his friend, has two children, the first one has passed away and the second one who works but is reluctant to take care of him. Before living in the social service, he was a graduate of a Bachelor's degree in Mining at ITB and before being homeless at the social service, he had worked as a soldier and an expert welding engineer on a mining ship. The factors causing S's neglect at the Social Service are due to his child doesn't want to take care of him, which is why at first he lived at the Garut Social Service and then transferred to the Bandung Social Service, where he has now stayed for almost 2 years.

4.2. Observation Results during the Interview

- a) E (was held on 2024 April 102, 204), both interview lasted for 45 minutes, with the difference that appeal in the first interview, E was more open, especially enthusiastic when discussing her work, whereas in the second interview, E did not talk much but was more expressive in showing her facial expressions when each question being asked.
- b) H (was held on 2024 April 104, 217), both interview lasted for 45 minutes, with the difference that appeal in the first interview, H was very enthusiastic when discussing work and worship, while in the second interview, H was not in a very healthy condition but was more open in expressing his complaints and issues that currently being faced.
- c) A (was held on 2024 April 123, 224), both interview lasted for 45 minutes, with the difference that appeal in the first interview, A did not tell the story very completely due to difficulty speaking caused by a disease around her mouth, but in the second interview she spoke more fluently, unhesitant to show her happiness and sadness.
- d) S (was held on 2024 April 123, 224), both interview lasted for 45 minutes, with the difference that appeal in the first interview, S was initially a bit closed off in responding to every question, easily distracted, but in the second interview, he was more focused and somewhat sensitive, crying while discussing his life before being abandoned.

4.3. Data Display

After data collection, researchers categorize important data, referred to as data reduction.

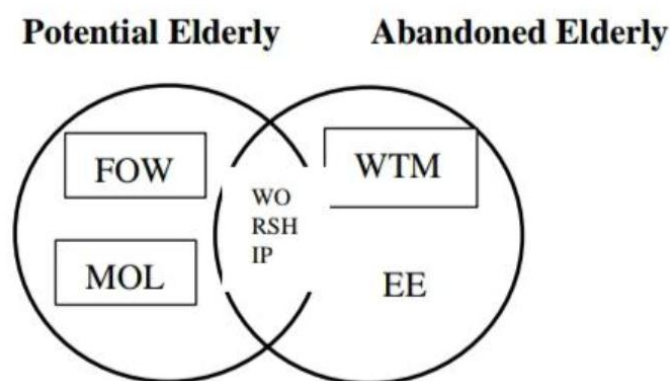


Figure 1: Venn diagram

The collected data is categorized based on the theme of the meaning of life that focuses on issues such as: The Freedom of Will (FOW), The Will to Meaning (WTM), The Meaning of Life (MOL), and Factors that Influence The Meaning of Life. Then the results of the data grouping are presented in the form of a Venn diagram as follows:

Both potential elderly individuals are deeper in the themes of the freedom of will (FOW) and the meaning of life (MOL), as this is influenced by their condition of still being potential, namely working and growing in a harmonious family environment. In contrast to the two abandoned elderly individuals who lack support in family relationships, they always struggle to rely on themselves to achieve their desires. Therefore, abandoned elderly people excel in the theme of the will to meaning (WTM) and expressing emotions (EE).

5. Discussion

5.1. Themes of The Meaning of Life

5.1.1. Subjects and the The Freedom of Will

If the two potential elderly E and H are allowed to engage in any daily activities and are free to act in their work, it is different from the two abandoned elderly A and S who, although during their stay at the Social Service are allowed to make their own choices, must adhere to rules such as not going out at night and not accepting arbitrary items.

After individuals are freed in making choices, the next stage is how the individual accepts the choices made. The process of self-acceptance cannot be separated from a person's interpretation of their life, the meaning of life for each person can vary and hold a special significance at a certain time.

Each of the four respondents has different forms of acceptance or rejection when facing the conditions they experience. The two abandoned elderly individuals face it with a form of acceptance, such as considering how the benefits and the attitudes of others towards them before accepting something. Meanwhile, the two potential elderly individuals have more selective limitations, for example, for E, he is most averse to being deceived by dishonest people, and for H, he can sometimes be easily offended, especially when facing work difficulties. This is in line with the theory that when individuals experience sad or joyful events, they tend to reflect on what happened, thus gradually starting to accept that whatever has happened to them is something that cannot be changed and should be appreciated.

Although there is freedom for individuals to accept or reject the conditions they face, it is important to pay attention to how individuals behave to determine their responsibilities regarding a choice. Creating meaning in life is an individual's responsibility and cannot be entrusted to others because it is the individual themselves who experiences the meaning of their life. The results indicate that both potential elderly individuals focus their responsibilities particularly towards their family and their work. Meanwhile, S still feels the desire to have responsibilities as an abandoned elderly person at the Social Services, although it differs from A who feels that they only need to be responsible for themselves.

Overall, both potential elders and abandoned elders have a meaningful life, which can be seen from the theme of freedom of will, it can be said that the potential elders are more dominant. This is closely related to their condition as potential elders who are still working. Such conditions align with the activity theory, which states that aging individuals who age well will maintain as many activities as possible and try to compensate for lost roles. Therefore, potential elders are superior to the two abandoned elder who still have to adhere to the rules of the Shelter.

5.1.2. Subjects and The Will to Meaning

The will to live a meaningful life is the desire to live that can motivate every human being to work, create, and engage in other important activities with the aim of making their life valuable and experienced meaningfully.

Although they are all elderly, the will to lead a meaningful life among the four elderly respondents is based on various different reasons. What makes respondent E excited in achieving the meaning of life is their desire to become a Hafiz of the Quran, H wants to be able to meet target achievements at work, the abandoned elderly A wants to remarry and go back to work, while respondent S wants to return home and continue their studies.

For respondents E and S, the motivation that keeps them enthusiastic about their daily activities is based on their role demands both at home and work. Meanwhile, for respondents A and S, the thing that motivates them is the encouragement to fulfill their own desires, without being burdened by the demands of their surroundings. This is supported by statements from both significant persons of the respondents who mentioned that A is indeed proactive in finding various ways to realize her desire to get married, while S often seeks attention, does not comply, and when feeling offended, does not accept treatment.

It can be concluded that abandoned elderly are more dominant than potential elderly because in their daily lives, they do not only rely on assistance from social workers but also strive on their own to achieve their desires, which is affirmed by their social worker's account that they always try to express their wishes to marry or return to study. This is in contrast to elderly individuals who live in neglect or loneliness, who usually experience negative psychological impacts such as stress and depression due to feelings of loneliness (Singh et al., 2013). However, both abandoned elderly are not too engulfed in those negative feelings and still remain eager to realize their desires through regular efforts, compared to the two potential elderly whose zest for life is based on their role demands.

5.1.3. Subjects and The Meaning of Life

One of the sources for individuals in finding meaning in life is through the values of experience, which is a way to gain experiences about something or someone that is valuable to us. The four respondents currently have different experiences in controlling their lives. If both potential elderly individuals E and H are focused on living their lives for their family, work, and others, it is different for the two abandoned elderly individuals A and S who are more oriented towards taking care of themselves due to being bound by local rules and having had past issues with others.

Before determining whether an individual has successfully achieved the meaning of life, one should pay attention to the alignment between the spirit of pursuing life satisfaction and the clarity of the life goals being pursued. When someone finds meaning in life, they will define life goals that will ultimately make all activities and desires more directed. All respondents have different progress in realizing their life goals. For the two potential elderly, they can gradually engage in the process of achieving their life goals, whereas for the two abandoned elderly in social services, their movement is limited by local regulations, so both A and S have just started by creating simple things to help them first get out of social services to then build their dreams.

So potential elderly have a more positive sense of meaning in life than neglected elderly. This is because, according to the accounts of the neglected elderly, although they have had a complete family since childhood, the relationships built are not very good due to harsh upbringing, such as being beaten for making mistakes, and inadequate economic conditions to facilitate the growth and development of many children, which hinders their education. Meanwhile, for potential elderly it is closely related to the upbringing from their parents since childhood, who always instilled values of goodness in them, resulting in their current elderly years being filled with positive thinking and gratitude.

5.2. Factors that Influence The Meaning of Life

5.2.1. Internal Factors

a) Thinking Patterns

A person's tendency to think either positively or negatively will influence their adjustment and psychological life. The result is that abandoned elderly do not think too much before acting, they openly discuss anything on their minds, while potential elderly excel in terms of mindset compared to abandoned elderly because they have a growth mindset. A person with a growth mindset views failure as an opportunity to learn and believes in their abilities that continue to develop over time.

b) Attitudes

The behavioral component that consists of a person's readiness to act in response to an event they experience greatly influences the wisdom derived. In contrast to potential elderly individuals who think first before acting, abandoned elderly often act directly according to their desires, such as when someone disturbs them, they immediately express their annoyance, although they still consider the consequences they will face. On the other hand, potential elderly are very cautious and pay attention to values in their behavior tend to be less flexible in responding to situations, such as being closed off when facing problems.

c) Self-Concept

One important factor in determining the meaning of life is the self-concept, which is an individual's image of themselves and has a high level of subjectivity. Although living in the same place, the two abandoned elderly have

different self-concepts. One of the elderly individuals sees himself as hopeless since living in social services, while the other elderly individual still has the desire to contribute to the surrounding environment. Meanwhile, the potential elderly have a more positive self-concept because they are influenced by the religious beliefs they adhere to in order to always be patient.

d) Patterns of Experience

Both potential elderly who grew up in a harmonious family reflect a better pattern of experience compared to neglected elderly individuals due to receiving good upbringing from their parents and not experiencing severe conflicts within the family. Meanwhile, abandoned elderly have a lower appreciation for their lives because at the social services department they undergo monotonous, unproductive activities, so their daily routine is usually filled with repetitive activities such as eating, sleeping, and only participating in an event when there is occasionally an outreach program.

e) Worship

Both potential elderly and abandoned elderly have similarities in the factor of worship that influences the meaning of their lives. Living life according to religious guidance can provide a meaningful and happy experience for a person. The four subjects can be said to be diligent in their worship, always remembering God in their daily activities.

f) Personality

The abandoned elderly in this study are more likely to have an open personality type because they can quickly get familiar with the researchers, are not hesitant to discuss quite sensitive topics, and when related to the big-five personality theory, there is a correlation that they are individuals who are easy to be open to something and new experiences.

Meanwhile, the potential elderly in this study are more likely to have a cautious personality type (conscientiousness), meaning they are very careful in their actions, not easily open with researchers, and require more time to become more expressive.

5.2.2. External Factors

a) Work

Successful aging is a condition where an elderly person not only lives a long lifespan but is also in good health, enabling them to carry out activities independently, remain useful, provide benefits, and possess four characteristics (Annele et al., 2019):

- Minimizing the risk of various diseases and the consequences related to those diseases.
- Effectively managing physical and cognitive functions.
- Active involvement in social activities.
- Positive spirituality, which is the sincere desire to improve the welfare of others as well as the ability to reconcile and accept one's own condition.

Based on the characteristics mentioned, both potential elderly have achieved successful aging because they meet the four criteria where they:

- Are responsive in addressing physical complaints they experience, such as seeking medical help promptly when ill, as they are economically capable and willing to recover.
- Have jobs that they are still engaged in, which keeps them active in maintaining physical fitness and continually learning.
- Play a significant role in social activities because their work is intertwined with engaging with others.
- To think positively on a spiritual level, as potential elderly individuals not only focus on improving their own well-being but also feel a desire to be useful to those around them.

However, unlike abandoned elderly who currently do not meet the criteria for successful aging due to:

- Although they have the desire to recover from illness, there are economic barriers that force them to wait for referrals from the social services when they need medical treatment
- Monotonous activities at the social services make it difficult for abandoned elderly individuals to train their physical and cognitive functions.
- There are limitations in socializing where they only interact with fellow clients or workers there.
- They tend not to have a positive outlook because their state of abandonment shapes them to prioritize themselves over others.

b) Experiences

Through various different experiences, both joyful and sorrowful, will influence how individuals interpret their lives. The result is that potential elderly develop into optimistic figures based on the life experiences they have gone through. Meanwhile, abandoned elderly, due to having experienced many unpleasant situations, become one of the reasons for their current condition of living in neglect and relying on social services for their needs.

c) Relationship Within the Family

In this case, it relates to how individuals are accepted in their families, if there is rejection from one party, it will lead to mutual indifference, lack of communication, and an inability to establish positive family relationships. Both abandoned elderly do not have a good relationship with their families due to the loss of a spouse and family inheritance conflicts. In contrast, the two potential elderly have a harmonious family relationship, communicate regularly, and have been well cared for since childhood.

d) Culture

Culture is the way of thinking and feeling that expresses itself in all aspects of life of a group of people that forms a society, in a certain space and time. Individuals who practice this philosophy of life will feel that their lives are meaningful because they are able to accept both suffering and happiness. Both potential elderly have a good acceptance of themselves and others. Meanwhile, the cultural context of abandoned elderly is when they have certain criteria that are more selective in choosing partners, and how they cope with their old age.

e) The Social Environment of the Community

The role of the individual in their environment influences how they can contribute and be well accepted by the community. Although both are not accepted in their families, there is a difference regarding the acceptance of the two abandoned elderly in society. Meanwhile, both potential elderly are more easily able to engage in the social environment because they are already used to socializing through work, making them more adaptable in society.

It can be concluded overall that besides the above factors, another factor outside the theme of the meaning of life was found to be more influential in this study, namely that abandoned elderly people are better at expressing emotions than potential elderly.

Although abandoned elderly still struggle to manage their negative emotions, they are able to channel the various emotions they feel appropriately, especially not suppressing their sadness because they directly express it by crying, bravely expressing any complaints that bother them. The state of abandoned elderly contradicts the results of one study which shows that emotional control in elderly individuals living in nursing homes, where they should have stable emotional control, was found in this study to be less effective in expressing their feelings to others and more often keeping problems to themselves.

6. Conclusion

Based on the overall research that has been conducted, the researchers conclude that both potential elderly and abandoned elderly have a meaningful life, even though potential elderly and abandoned elderly each have their own advantages and disadvantages in the theme of life meaningfulness. The empowerment that enables potential elderly individuals to remain productive and participate in various activities in the community makes their lives more directed with skills and knowledge that continue to be honed. Thus, with the influence of support from work, the experiences one has play a significant role in how these potential elderly individuals ultimately experience their lives positively, having a growth mindset leading them to have a theme of free will and a deeper meaning in life, eventually achieving successful aging compared to abandoned elderly.

On the other hand, due to the unfulfilled basic needs and conflicts within the family, this has become the main cause of abandoned elderly people who depend on social assistance programs or community assistance. This is due to the fact that they do not have a positive relationship network within the family and community environment, which affects the attitude patterns and self-concept of abandoned elderly individuals who do not pay much attention to values in behavior, possess a low self-concept, and have not reached the stage of successful aging. Nevertheless, due to the lack of social support, it actually makes the elderly who are abandoned excel in the theme of the desire for a meaningful life as a reason to achieve any desires they have, they only rely on themselves and continue to strive to take action to realize that desire, abandoned elderly people are even more willing to express all the emotions they feel compared to potential elderly people who often suppress their problems.

This research has depicted a comparative case study regarding the aspects and factors of the meaning of life in potential elderly and abandoned elderly, but the process of seeking the meaning of life needs to be further explored both qualitatively and quantitatively. Future researchers can also examine the phenomenon of potential elderly and abandoned elderly to connect with other variables such as worship, successful aging, emotional expressiveness, etc. The next research can also use quantitative methods to obtain results that can be generalized.

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