

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN GENDER AND SPIRITUALITY WITH THE LEVEL OF RESILIENCE IN PARENTS WHO HAVE CHILDREN WITH LEUKEMIA AT RSUD ULIN BANJARMASIN

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Abstract

Leukemia is a chronic disease that requires long-term treatment. Parents who have children with leukemia are a stressor that has physical, psychological and socio-economic impacts. The importance of parents' ability to recover from this situation is called resilience. Factors that can influence resilience include gender and spirituality. determine the relationship between gender and spirituality with the level of resilience in parents who have children with leukemia. This research uses quantitative methods with analytical survey type with cross sectional design. The research sample of parents with children with leukemia was 33 respondents using purposive sampling technique. Data collection tools used demographic questionnaires, the Daily Spiritual Experience Scale (DSES) and the Connor-Davidson Resilience Scale (CD-RISC). Data analysis used the Pearson Chi Square statistical test. The results showed that the majority of respondents were female at 60.6%, the majority had a medium spiritual level at 45.5% and the resilience level of respondents was in the low category at 48.5%. The relationship between gender and the level of resilience of parents who have children with leukemia ($p = 0.031 < \alpha 0.05$). The relationship between spiritual level and the level of resilience of parents who have children with leukemia ($p = 0.000 < \alpha 0.05$). The conclusion of this research is there is a relationship between gender and spirituality with the level of resilience of parents who have children with leukemia. It is recommended that parents can increase resilience through spiritual support and so that they can optimally care for their children

Keywords: Children, Gender, Leukemia, Parents, Resilience, Spirituality

Introduction

Leukemia is the most common type of cancer affecting children and adolescents and is listed as the most common cause of cancer death in children. World Health Organization (WHO) data in 2018 recorded a worldwide prevalence of leukemia of 437,033 cases, consisting of 249,454 cases in men and 187,579 cases in women. The number of cases and deaths due to leukemia in the last 5 years was 1.1 million cases and 309,006 deaths in 2018. Leukemia ranks in the top 10 diseases with the highest mortality in the world. The highest incidence of leukemia occurs in Asia with a percentage of 48.7% or 561,322 cases. Indonesia every year with cancer cases increasing where in 2013 there were 1.4% of cases and in 2018 it increased to 1.8%. Provinces that show the highest number of cases are South Sumatra with 984 cases, Central Java with 746 cases, DKI Jakarta and South Kalimantan with 380 cases (Kemenkes RI, 2018).

Symptoms of leukemia in children include pallor, weakness, fussy children, decreased appetite; fever for no apparent reason; enlargement of the liver, spleen, and lymph nodes; seizures until loss of consciousness; skin bleeding and or spontaneous bleeding; bone pain, often characterized by children not wanting to stand and walk and are more comfortable being carried; enlarged testicles with a hard consistency (Nasution, 2021).

For parents with leukemic children, the diagnosis is one of the significant challenges both physically, psychologically and socio-economically. It can lead to vulnerability and failure and quality of life and functioning of parents (Ye *et al.*, 2017 & Mezgebu *et al.*, 2020). However, the difficulties faced by parents of leukemia children make parents rise and go through difficult times in caring for children, which can ultimately bring positive emotions in themselves, gain psychological balance and have achievements towards their children's progress. Conditions like this show the ability to survive and rise from the difficult conditions experienced by parents with leukemia. This ability is conceptually known as resilience (Isfani dan Paramita, 2021).

This resilience ability will enable parents to make adjustments to significant difficulties. Resilience is important to foster in the context of parents of children with leukemia because it can protect parents from the negative effects of stressful conditions. The ability of parents to successfully face challenges (being resilient) in caring for children with leukemia varies greatly (Isfani & Paramita, 2021). There are several factors that influence resilience in individuals such as personal, psychological, physical, gender and spiritual factors (Ye *et al.*, 2017).

The results of interviews conducted by researchers on June 12, 2023 involving 3 parents who have children with a diagnosis of leukemia obtained results that show the level of resilience based on gender where mothers tend to have a higher level of resilience than fathers, while fathers have a better spiritual level than mothers. Mothers have high resilience due to their role in caring for children and acting as the main caregiver. In terms of spirituality, researchers found fathers with high spirituality because fathers seek support with calmness in religious beliefs.

Based on the phenomenon and description above, the researcher is interested in conducting research with the title "the relationship between gender and spirituality with the level of resilience in parents who have children with leukemia at Banjarmasin Ulin Hospital".

Materials and Methods

The research method used in this study was an analytic survey method with a cross sectional design. The study population was parents with leukemia children who were treated at Ulin Banjarmasin Hospital. The sample used in this study was 33 respondents, non-probabilistic sampling technique purposive sampling type and sampling is in accordance with the inclusion and exclusion criteria determined by the researcher.

The instruments used in this study were demographic observation sheets consisting of male and female gender, the Daily Spiritual Experience Scale (DSES) questionnaire for spiritual measurement and The Connor-Davidson Resilience Scale (CD-RISC) to measure the level of resilience. Data were analyzed using univariate and bivariate Pearson Chi Square tests.

Result

Table 1: Frequency Distribution of Respondents Based on Characteristics

Characteristics	F	%
Age		
17-25 years old	3	9,1
26-35 years old	20	60,6
36-45 years old	8	24,2
46-55 years old	2	6,1
Education		
Elementary School	5	15,2
Junior High School	10	30,2
High School	16	48,5
Bachelor	2	6,1
Jobs		
Private	3	9,1
Labor	7	21,2
Farmers	6	18,2
unemployed	17	51,2
Income		
No income	17	51,5
<3.200.000	16	48,5
Marital Status		
Merried	33	100

Table 1 shows that the age of respondents is mostly 26-35 years old as many as 20 people (60.6%) and some others are 46-55 years old as many as 2 people (6.1%). Most of the respondents' education is high school / equivalent as many as 16 people (48.5%) and some others have a Bachelor's degree as many as 2 people (6.1%). Most of the respondents' jobs were not working as many as 17 people (51.5%) and some were private as many as 3 people (9.1%). The majority of income is none (not working) as many as 17 people (51.5%) and <3,200,000 as many as 16 people (48.5%). All 33 respondents were married (100%).

Table 2: Analysis Univariate

Characteristics	F	%
Genders		
Male	13	39,4
Female	20	60,6
Level of spirituality		
Low	13	39,4
Medium	15	45,5
High	5	15,2
Level of Resilience		
Low	3	48,5
Medium	7	33,3
High	6	18,2

Table 2 shows that the majority of female respondents were 20 people (60.6%) and 13 people (39.4%) were male. The spiritual level of respondents was mostly moderate as many as 15 people (45.5%) while others were high spiritual as many as 5 people (15.2%). The level of resilience of respondents was mostly low as many as 16 people (48.5%) and some others were high as many as 6 people (18.2%).

Table 3: *Analysis of the Relationship between Gender and Level of Resilience in Parents who Have Children with Leukemia at Ulin Banjarmasin Hospital*

Gender	Level of Resilience						Total	
	Low		Middle		High		N	%
	n	%	n	%	n	%		
Male	10	30,3	2	6,1	1	3	13	39,4
Female	6	18,2	9	27,3	3	15,2	20	60,6
Total	16	48,5	11	33,3	6	18,2	33	100

Pearson Chi Square = 0,031 ($\alpha < 0,05$)

Table 3 shows that most of the men with a low level of resilience were 10 people (30.3%) while the other women with a moderate to high level of resilience were 9 and 5 people (27.3% and 15.2%). The results of the pearson chi square statistical test obtained a value of $p = 0.031 < \alpha 0.05$ then H_0 is rejected and H_a is accepted, meaning that there is a relationship between gender and the level of resilience in parents who have children with leukemia at Ulin Banjarmasin Hospital.

Table 4: *Analysis of the Relationship Between Spiritual and Resilience in Parents who Have Children with Leukemia at Ulin Banjarmasin Hospital*

Spiritual	Level of Resilience						Total	
	Low		Middle		High		N	%
	n	%	n	%	n	%		
Low	12	36,4	1	3	0	0	13	39,4
Middle	4	12,1	10	30,3	1	3	15	45,4
High	0	0	0	0	5	15,2	5	15,2
Total	16	48,5	11	33,3	6	18,2	33	100

Pearson Chi Square = 0,031 ($\alpha < 0,05$)

Table 4 shows that respondents with a low spiritual level with a low level of resilience were 12 people (36.4%), while respondents with high spirituality had a high level of resilience as many as 5 people (15.2%). The results of the pearson chi square statistical test obtained a value of $p = 0.000 < \alpha 0.05$ then H_0 is rejected and H_a is accepted, meaning that there is a spiritual relationship with the level of resilience in parents who have children with leukemia at Ulin Banjarmasin Hospital.

Discussion

a. Gender of Parents Who Have Children with Leukemia at Ulin Hospital Banjarmasin

The results of this study found that most of the gender of women/mothers were 60.6% and some were male at 39.4%. This research shows that women/mothers take care of many children. Research by Mwangi *et al.*, (2017) in Kenya stated that there are differences in resilience based on gender, where women have a higher level of resilience, this is because women tend to be more resilient than men. In line with research by Salim & Fakhurrozi (2020) found differences in the level of resilience between women and men, where women's resilience is higher than men. Men and women express their emotions differently, either verbally or non-verbally. Women in expressing emotions are considered easier to recognize their emotions through verbal expressions and facial expressions compared to men (Hidayah, Ariyanto dan Hariyadi, 2020). Women tend to express emotions as they are in accordance with emotional conditions that are not in accordance with their expectations. This is related to the goals of men and women in controlling their emotions. Men express emotions of pride or anger to show and maintain their dominance as a man, while women express their emotions to maintain and maintain interpersonal relationships and show that they appear as weak or powerless individuals (Mulyana, Izzati dan Budiani, 2020).

b. Spirituality of Parents Who Have Children with Leukemia at Ulin Banjarmasin Hospital

The results of this study found that most of the spiritual level was moderate at 45.5% while the other part had a high spiritual level of 15.2%. The results of the study are in line with research by Fajria (2018) obtained from 124 respondents as many as 114 respondents by 91.9% and 10 respondents with moderate spirituality by 8.1%. In line with other research by Herninandari *et al.*, (2023) obtained from 62 respondents as many as 25 people with moderate spirituality by 40.3% and 37 people with high spirituality by 59.7%.

A person's spirituality has a significant impact on an individual's mental and emotional well-being. A low spiritual level will have an impact on a person's psychology including depression and more severe cases can encourage suicidal thoughts, whereas individuals with a high spiritual level will tend to have better coping mechanisms, reduce anxiety and improve their quality of life. They will feel connected to God, humans and nature and help them face life's challenges with more calm and peace (Maulani *et al.*, 2021; Wicaksana & Rachman, 2018).

c. Level of Resilience of Parents Who Have Children with Leukemia at Banjarmasin Ulin Hospital

The results of this study showed that most of the respondents' resilience level was in the low category at 48.5% and some were high at 18.2%. This research is in line with research by Putri *et al.*, (2021) found as many as 16 respondents with low resilience at 42.1%. In line with research by Hasanah *et al.*, (2021)

it was found that the resilience of parents of children with cancer was 32 people with low resilience by 44.4%. The impact of resilience varies, one of which is on individual emotions. This is in line with research by Sejati (2019) which states that the higher the resilience, the lower the stress level of a person as well as the low level of resilience, the higher the level of stress experienced. A person's high resilience will make a person succeed in getting through the problems he is facing, albeit slowly (Yuhanita dan Indiaty, 2021).

d. Relationship between Gender and Level of Resilience in Parents Who Have Children with Leukemia at Ulin Hospital Banjarmasin

The results showed that most of the men with a low level of resilience were 10 people (30.3%) while the other women with a high level of resilience were 5 people (15.2%). The results of the pearson chi square statistical test obtained a value of $p = 0.031 < \alpha 0.05$ then H_0 is rejected and H_a is accepted, meaning that there is a relationship between gender and the level of resilience in parents who have children with leukemia at Ulin Banjarmasin Hospital. These results are in line with research by Nyiagani & Kristinawati (2021) which states that there is a positive relationship between gender and a person's level of resilience where the r value of 0.516 has a significance of 0.001 ($p < 0.05$). Contrary to research conducted by Susilawati *et al.*, (2022) stated that gender has no correlation with the level of resilience where the significance value $r = -0.024$ and $p = 0.820 > 0.05$.

The results of research obtained in the field of the high level of resilience of mothers rather than fathers are due to the fact that mothers are the main caregivers who accompany children during illness and undergo treatment. Mothers act as the first care giver in caring for their children compared to fathers, it can be seen that most mothers do not work or as housewives so that they can play a role in accompanying and caring for their children compared to fathers who work for a living (Fetriyah, Yuliana dan Susanti, 2023). Age also found that 8 out of 10 male respondents over 30 years had low resilience. Low resilience at the age of over 30 years is due to heavy care demands, uncertainty about children's illnesses and feelings of inability to cope with pressure (Missasi dan Izzati, 2019).

e. Spiritual Relationship with Level of Resilience in Parents Who Have Children with Leukemia at Ulin Banjarmasin Hospital

The results showed that most respondents with a low level of resilience were 12 people (36.4%), while others with high spirituality had a high level of resilience as many as 5 people (15.2%). The results of the pearson chi square statistical test obtained a value of $p = 0.000 < \alpha 0.05$ then H_0 is rejected and H_a is accepted, meaning that there is a spiritual relationship with the level of resilience in parents who have children with leukemia at Ulin Banjarmasin Hospital. This study is in line with research by Fajria (2018) which states that there is a positive relationship between spirituality and resilience with a correlation coefficient of 0.691 and $p = 0.000 < 0.05$, meaning that the higher the spirituality, the higher the level of

resilience a person has. Another study conducted by Herninandari *et al.*, (2023) strengthens this statement where there is a relationship between spiritual intelligence and the level of individual resilience ($p=0.007 < 0.05$). Spirituality has an effect on the high and low resilience of parents with leukemia children. It can be said that, the higher the level of spirituality, the higher the resilience that a person shows. Conversely, the lower the spirituality a person has, the lower the resilience that tends to appear. This is interconnected because spirituality is able to provide basic meaning in life and find ourselves connected to a larger context. That ability can encourage someone to bounce back from adversity (Sujana, Fatimah dan Hidayati, 2017).

Conclusion

The conclusion of this study is that there is a significant relationship between gender and spiritual level with the level of resilience in parents who have children with leukemia at RSUD Ulin Banjarmasin. Therefore, it is expected that various parties, including health education institutions, RSUD Ulin Banjarmasin, health workers, parents, and future researchers can implement support programs for parents who have children with leukemia, such as psychosocial services and information resources. For health workers, this study is expected to be useful as a guideline to provide holistic support, including an introduction to spiritual support. For parents, this study can provide insight into how to improve resilience through spiritual support and husband support. Future researchers are expected to use the results of this study as a reference and involve other variables such as age and occupation in further research on the level of resilience of parents who have children with leukemia.

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