



Self-Identity of Single Moms

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ABSTRACT: *Not all couples are able to preserve the unity of the family and avoid divorce. Economical considerations, adultery, jealousy, physical aggression, and other elements are some of the causes of divorce. The purpose of this study is to present self-identity, dignity, self-esteem, and the nature of life in the reference text, specifically to: 1) comprehend the self-identity preservation, 2) interpret the source of self when acting to expect acceptance in the environment, and 3) identify a suitable self-concept framework to be used. The text "The Single Moms" by Indriastuti et al. (2012), which touches on the issue of their identification in the public eyes, is chosen as the source material for this study and will be investigated from the perspective of their communication. The findings demonstrate that public opinion has its own domain. People have an independent narrative ego regarding culture and have the option to choose their own concepts. Although some are vulnerable in heart, the majority of the characters are strong and independent.*

KEYWORDS: *Single mother, divorce, self-identity, widow, dignity.*

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I. INTRODUCTION

Every family aspires to happiness and a healthy marriage. However, reality can be different. The prospect of a long-lasting marriage could end in conflict and divorce. According to a hadith narrated by Imam Tirmidhi, divorce is a legal action but is despised by God. Even though managing a household is not an easy task, divorce is not the best course. Divorce is frequently brought on by economic factors, physical aggression, infidelity, and jealousy. Divorced women commonly experience psychological discomfort, challenges meeting family obligations, and difficulty finding time to educate their children. To resolve many marriage issues, patience and a great personality are required. In developed countries, being a widow has better conditions where the government pays more attention. Contrary, in the less developed countries, in which women were heavily dependent on their husbands' income, widowed women's quality of life is not so good.

The portrait of self-identity which intersects between the orientation of the collective cultural value and the freedom of the soul is the starting point for modernity. Modernism is not based on wealth or hierarchy, but on ordinary life that rests on moral virtue and rationality. According to its nature, this is how the human soul is. If a collective cultural value can be converted into a subjective context and the theme of self is given more weight to raise the question of "self-identity", that is extremely beneficial. This is in line with the fact that every human being has a right to be given the freedom to express her ideas. The intention is to offer individual values the freedom to uphold their dignity in social interactions rather than focusing primarily on the value of the majority.

"The single moms", a text by Budiana Indrastuti, Mia Amalia, Ainun Chomsun, and Rani Rachmani Moedarta, is utilized as a reference in this study to be examined and evaluated from the perspective of communications, particularly those that deal with the issue of self-identity [1]. The last character, Rani Rachmani Moedarta, tells a story about her emotional bond with her favorite son, while Mia Amalia discusses how difficult it is to take care of four children while working as a freelancer. Ainun Chomsun's figure also discusses how difficult it was to be hit by financial difficulties. The characteristics that surround self-identity include dignity, vision, life objectives, values, roles, how to treat others, the articulation of behaviors that are judged true or false, and sources of self. Only in a limited number of times and places can humans find the ideal definitions of goodness. Modern society's limited self-concept is a result of historical subjugation.

The purpose of this study is to depict the widow's self-identity of women in the reference text "The Single Moms" using morality, virtue, and reason. In addition, this study also discusses about the contrasting understanding of self that tends to uphold the ideal of freedom of expression with a collective cultural value orientation. In the quest for self-identity, this research is anticipated to be able to promote empathy and social interactions.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW AND RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT

In general, our respect for others can be affected by the environment, particularly by variances in human personality, social position, and culture [2]. Cultural diversity is largely based on universal human values and is part of the ancestral heritage that can shape a person's personality [3]. Culture itself refers to: 1) a person's ability to process what he thinks, 2) culture can make individuals more creative to develop their activities, 3) culture can classify whatever we learn [4]. The definition of culture includes behavioral, historical, functional, norms, and structural aspects. Collaborative thinking on the definition of culture is widely known in the disciplines of culture, anthropology, sociology, and social science [5]. Kluckhohn first believed that all people are biologically equal, but as he wrote later in 1959, he started to see how different genes might affect behavior.

The idea behind that each gene's traits have an impact on a specific ability that humans possess. Various factors that influence cultural and personality include: 1) hereditary and environmental factors, 2) the participation of individuals in groups influenced by the group's culture, 3) a person's social status, 4) a person's response to their immediate environment, 5) culture and personality are the slogans of contemporary social science [3]. The value is made up of both an explicit and an implicit understanding of individuals. Accordingly, there are five main issues that are utilized to study differences in cultural values: the character of life, employment, position in space and time, relationships with the natural world, and relationships with other people [3]. In general, this value orientation holds that society constantly attempts to find solutions to a number of universal issues. For the sake of mutual agreement on understanding differences, a cross-cultural psychology paradigm is needed. In which cultural value systems can help to negotiate between generations and ethnicities. In this case, one of them is to comprehend the causes of the variances and similarities in people's cultural backgrounds that can influence their behavior. These individual values and actions need to be explained including what variables influence their actions. In general, society tends to favor alternative differential solutions. The map of cultural orientation values can be divided into: 1) human cultural values orientation, which can be good or bad assumptions to others, 2) orientation toward nature, which encompasses environmental rights and responsibilities, 3) activity orientation which has to do with what and who does the activity; 4) time orientation (past, present, and future); 5) orientation towards relations between humans (self and other), The orientation of relations between humans prioritizes individual goals, and 6) value orientation towards space [3].

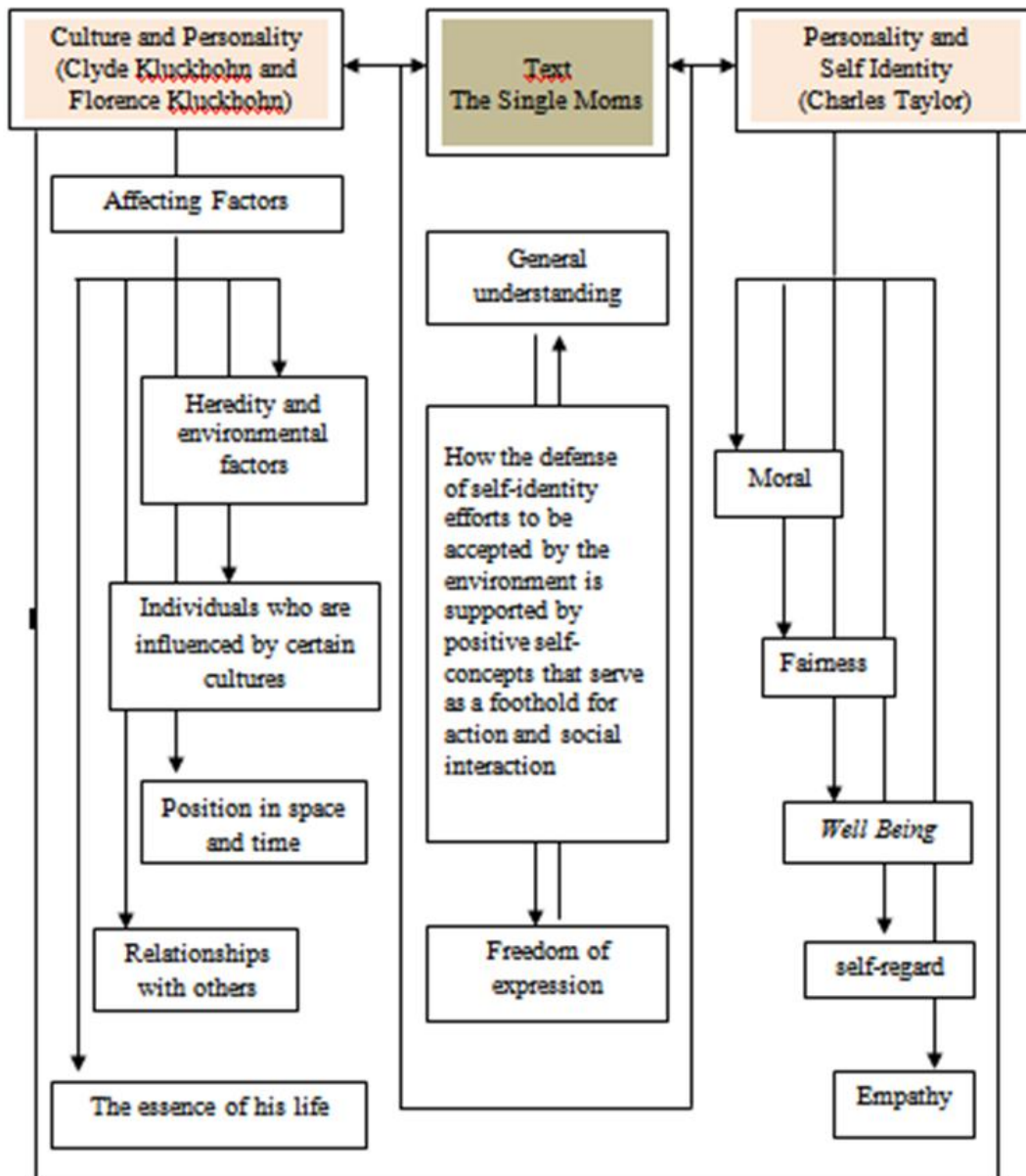
Orientation toward interpersonal relationships, self and others, is deemed more appropriate for use as a foundation in representing the reference text, particularly when socially associated in assessing self-identity. This adoption of Kluckhohn's ideas can also be used to explain how the idea of the future evolved in the contemporary era. The material from *Single Moms* serves as a reference point for understanding. In this case, reading between sentences and refining by analyzing the context are done using the grammar interpretation tool to make meaning more objective. Along with subjective experience, it also investigates how self-identity meanings are conveyed.

The implications of this study are anticipated to be used by widows to make plans and discover novel approaches to establishing status, dignity, honor, self-esteem, and dignity that may be employed in social situations. The idea of a new dignity that is in line with women's nature and does not contradict with morality, reason, or social conventions is thus predicted to be able to alter traditional societies' ways of thinking in the global world.

Starting from the atmosphere of mutual misunderstanding, prejudice (*vorurteil*), spatial and temporal disparity, writers, and readers, amid a pluralistic modern society in interpreting self-identity [6], the father of modern hermeneutics Schleiermacher focuses on understanding (*verstehen*) the meaning of the text (7). Reading between the lines of a text to arrive at psychological interpretations while backed by history is the grammatical tool in this art of understanding art [7]. While grammatical interpretation positions the objectivity of the text, psychological interpretations focus on subjective texts. This effort is performed simply intended to capture the objective meaning of self-identity by tracing: 1) the general text, 2) interpreting the contents of the text [7] in terms of history, culture, and psychology [8]. In this case, the researchers serve as mediators to extract the text's objective meaning.

In general, a person's perspective on life relies on empathy. It has a propensity to supersede impersonal external elements, even beyond their personality [9]. The *Single Moms* text examines a variety of issues experienced by single mothers using supporting ideas of culture and personality by Clyde and Florence Kluckhohn [3] and self-identity by Charles Taylor [6]. Unity, inheritance, and environment all play a role in

culture and personality. Heredity is closely related to genetics where the individual comes from, namely his origins, and the environment that shaped his culture. Personal culture is heavily influenced by how people interact with their surroundings, whether they are influenced by other cultures, where they are in space and time, how they relate to others, and the essence of his life. In this study, Charles Taylor's theory [6] is used to obtain information of the identity of single moms. Her identity and personality are traced to the inherent elements of morality, fairness, well-being, self-regard and empathy. The research framework is presented in the following structure:



III. METHODOLOGY

This research was based upon a qualitative approach [10]. This qualitative approach is carried out in accordance with the fields of sociology and anthropology in order to get a true self-identity picture. Additionally, this study's primary goal is to describe human behavior. In order to convey the objectivity of the meaning of self-identity, this study also employs an interpretive approach in its representation of The Single Moms, particularly in the passages that cross over into the psychological and personality sides.

The hermeneutic interpretation method is applied to the interpretation of the text. We anticipate being able to examine the following using this interpretation: 1) the grammar between sentences that intersect with the

self-identity issue, 2) the historical perspective derived from the life experiences contained in the text, and 3) psychological understanding [11]. Overall, Schleiermacher's hermeneutic helps the reader in interpreting texts beyond their original intent. This approach has an impact on interpretive reasoning [12]. Even though language is a form of communication that is utilized frequently, the study is not about how words should be arranged but rather how they are interpreted in the text of *The Single Moms*. To put it another way, writers and texts interact with readers and the general public.

IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Single Moms Self-Identity

Mia Amalia conceals a frailty beneath a powerful soul. I don't want to seem to regret the decisions I have taken by seeming sad or weak, she stated as she bemoaned her lot in life. I decide to smile all the time because of this [1]. Numerous requirements with a limited budget, particularly the need for her child after the divorce, are some of her issues. This self-identity is occasionally a topic of discussion in the neighborhood. Widows are frequently stigmatized in the community as undesirable members of society. Widows consequently face severe discrimination. This stigma sometimes makes a woman choose to stay in a marriage even though she does not get the happiness so that she feels to be accepted by the general public. The term "widow," which in society has a negative connotation, is even depicted in movies, songs, and soap operas.

A widow's family may become overwhelmed by all the rules and regulations that must be followed in the community. In exchange, the family must safeguard their reputation in order to get over this burden, particularly if there is a lot of social rejection where they live. Because of this, it's important to educate the public to understand that becoming a widow is a decision and that a perpetrator is a responsible adult. Basically, it is expected that human to behave positively so that societies will behave well if they adhere to the same set of noble human values. As long as they follow the rules, humans are free to express themselves. Chomsum (2012) stated that "Empathy and sympathy are reciprocal of ourselves".

The way we act toward others determines how others act toward us. How will the neighborhood feel about us? If we don't contribute positively to the community. For a Muslim, freedom of expression must be constrained by moral principles. Humans should be revered and honored by society for their role as God's servants. Being a good Muslim is more important than anything else and, at the same time, responsible for her obligations as a mother and a community member is essential. We don't have the right to categorize widows as persons who have deficiencies. We must develop a sense of ourselves in order to develop empathy. The community will reciprocate if we show empathy and offer the community benefits.

A child is a mother's most precious possession. "For me, Aria is a soul mate, an extraordinary gift of God. I don't feel I need anything else, other than being able to be with him" [1]. She pours everything she has into the child since he is her only chance. Other than their children, they are alone. Her child represents the future possibility of prosperity. The prevailing opinion occasionally expresses concern regarding the rearing of children by single parents. Every action a single mother takes as a result of her education is frequently seen negatively by the community. Without a father, the family is concerned about the growth and development of the kids.

Even if it is limited by adjusting to life in a strange nation after divorce, Rani Rachmani Moediarta must educate and raise her son alone. Being emotionally close to her son makes it extremely difficult for her to be independent and flexible. Her son constantly looks forward to seeing his mommy. In this situation, Rani needs to practice letting go both physically and mentally. The goal is for her son to be independent in the new environment. Finally, the obstacle of her son going to school in a foreign country paid off.

The single parent wants to prove to the community that the quality of her education is of high quality and not inferior to parenting accompanied by mother and father in general. Whatever its role, her status must not limit her from learning and moving forward. Her respects in the community and sense of dignity have a significant effect in how others view her. She lived by the motto, "I believe there must be a way, as long as our goals are good and honestly done" [1]. She is convinced that God will make His servants' struggles easier if there is a desire to spread goodness. Humans must concentrate on the physical and spiritual challenges they experienced. People need to be able to manage their emotions, get closer to God, and uphold healthy relationships with their immediate family.

Women are known for being affectionate, strong, and gentle, but when it comes to getting things done, some women can also be incredibly firm. Women are basically human beings with a myriad of advantages and disadvantages. The advantages and disadvantages of women are the ones that complement men. So women should do their duties and responsibilities according to their nature. But if the conditions that require women to act strongly, act out of common practice, a woman must do so with due observance of the applicable rules. Finally "... the status is just an attachment, the most crucial thing is personality, right?" [1]. Everything is dependent on each person. The biggest asset is the way she expresses herself in her environment. "We must

respect someone's choice if that is their position, whatever it may be," A widowed lady must delicately respect religious, cultural, societal, and legal traditions while displaying her self-worth as a true woman.

Single Mother Moral Awareness

Widowed women must simultaneously handle a lot of work and responsibilities. "My hands are only two, and I have to run everything well. Help me, Lord [1]. She understood that she should always draw nearer to the Almighty for help in life as a result of the challenges in her life. After people try as much as possible, supported by prayer and good intentions, life may change according to what we expect. A positive attitude is key in life. References to attitude include upholding traditional values, being dependable, self-sufficient, contemporary, courteous, gregarious, and other desirable traits. On the other hand, her belief serves as the cornerstone of her dignity.

Even if she is different from other women in that she is a widow, there is obviously no need to hide that fact. If the child asks what the facts are, it must be adjusted to the level of understanding. For children to learn, they must have a feeling of justice and honesty. The structure of the family, which typically consists of a father, mother, and child, still needs to be balanced by a child's instincts. A young child can inquire as to why there are only two nuclear families in his home (mother and child). "Life is really not simple, son," Rani Rachmani Moediarta counseled her son. [1]. Her life's journey and the separation she went through were more complicated than she had anticipated.

Does she occasionally feel unlucky as a single parent? [1]. Does her child feel unfortunate knowing that widowed women raised him? Is her child insecure when hanging out with his friends? Children of widowed women are not without burden. They must develop their capacity for adaptation as well as deal with the public perception. A broken home product can have a psychological impact.

A mother's responsibility is to give her child a solid mental foundation. Even though the community may react differently, parents should teach their children to accept reality. But all of this needs to serve as motivation for future success. Humans must make an effort to combat anxiety and fear with optimism. Quoting novelist Dorothy Canfield Fisher, a mother is not a place to lean, but a person who does not need to lean [1]. In order to prevent their children from being drawn into a misleading environment, mothers must teach them how to live independently and be adaptable.

Ainun Chomsun understands that her children are her first priority till it seems as though there is a lack of emotional intimacy between them. Despite the fact that they are not speaking to one another, there is an underlying connection between them that cannot be broken. As if they were talking to themselves. Her time-consuming activities made her have to choose between child and work. The consequence is the work chosen. Not infrequently the individual must choose a job that is following her rhythm, even if the income is not constant. How to realize this daughter's request, while she has to make a living? [1]. She begged God to forgive her and provide protection and everything good to her child and herself.

In the end, mothers must decide between being close to their children and having a job, even though this may simply entail seeking for a new, more flexible position. They might emphasize the need to be independent and not dependent on others, especially for the benefit of the next generation.

V. CONCLUSION

The results of this study can be concluded as follows: If morality is taken into consideration, the message to be delivered is that the person has come to understand what is important to herself and how it can affect her behavior. Her affection for her child serves as the main source of inspiration for this character. They are prepared to live with the effects of their choice to get divorced. Their way of life is dynamic and adaptable to their circumstances. They perceive unfairness in their surroundings, which frequently follows accepted wisdom.

Culture has territory that is not easily penetrated. Individuals, in the meantime, are largely independent of their environment and culture. There is no relationship between divorce and heredity and environmental factors. Individuals tend to reject general views, even though they still interpret their identity in terms of gaining acceptance in their environment.

Despite the fact that the status is the same, every person has a unique issue. After the divorce, they must cope with broader issues that touch on their identity. Although some are vulnerable in heart, the majority of the characters are strong and independent. Her achievement is evident in the raising of her children, employment, profession, and social position. In general, life has a fundamental character that adapts to its surroundings.

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