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FORGIVENESS AND RESILIENCE: A CASE OF ADOLESCENTS WITH BROKEN HOME DIVORCE

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Abstract

Discordant or unstable family conditions, such as difficult adjustment methods, aggressive behavior, and juvenile delinquency, are determining factors in the development of an unhealthy child's (adolescent) personality. Adolescents whose parents have both divorced (broken home) find it difficult to forgive the circumstances they are in; they are also sometimes unable to adapt after experiencing these painful conditions. The aim of this research was to see if there was a correlation between adolescents' forgiveness and resilience in broken home divorce. This study employed a quantitative method with a correlational design. A total of 216 broken home adolescents aged 15 to 19 years old participated in this study, recruited by using a purposive sampling technique. The psychological scales Transregression Related Interpersonal Motivation 18 Version Loading Factors (a = 0.872) and The Resiliency Attitudes and Skills Profile (a = 0.937) were used in this study. The study's findings reveal a significant positive correlation between forgiveness and resilience in divorced adolescents from broken homes (r = 0.200 with sig = 0.002 (p<0.01)). Furthermore, forgiveness has an effective contribution of 4% (r2), and it is one of the factors associated with increased resilience, particularly for broken home divorce adolescents. In this case, the researchers see that broken home divorce adolescents have a moderate category of forgiveness and resilience. This study can serve as a basis for broken home persons, particularly adolescents, to forgive and recover from traumatic experiences such as broken homes.

Keywords: Forgiveness, Resilience, Adolecents, Broken Home, Divorce

Introduction

Broken homes are those where one or both parents have passed away or the family is no longer intact as a result of divorce. Many people view divorce as a suitable method of ending unproductive domestic partnerships, and many husbands and wives choose this way to end their marriages (Adristi, 2021). The Indonesian religious courts continue to handle an increasing number of divorce cases. In an April–May 2020 poll, the National Commission on Women found that the COVID–19 epidemic had an impact on how people cared for their families, carried out domestic tasks, and caused divorce. According to Rahmawati (2022), 3,556 divorces took place in 2021. The number of divorce cases increased from 291,677 in 2021 to 447,743 in 2022, according to a poll by Databooks, there will be an increase in divorces (Dihni, 2022). According to the National Commission on Women, conflicts and disagreements inside the family are the most typical reasons for divorce. A broken home, which is the separation of the family unit, can lead to children committing crimes and other wrongdoings (Safitri, 2017).

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Article Information

Received : January 29, 2023 Revised : March 27, 2023 Accepted : April 01, 2023 Parents who live in a broken home are not alone in feeling this way. In particular, if the condition manifests during adolescence, children will also experience this. Adolescents are explained as being in an interim status in developmental psychology as a result of the position taken by their parents and partially attained through their own efforts. Adolescence has an upper age restriction of 12 to 21 years (Merz, Tottenham, & Noble, 2018). Unhealthy family circumstances, such as difficult adjustment processes, aggressive behavior, and juvenile delinquency, play a significant role in the development of children's (adolescents') personalities (Detta & Abdullah, 2017; Supratman, 2020; Nurmawati & Karneli, 2021).

There are two circumstances in which parents are unable to carry out their obligations: death or a family divorce (Poeze & Mazzucato, 2013; Calvete, 2014). Adolescents' mental health is negatively impacted by a troubled or broken home. Inability to fulfill responsibilities, such as parents' lack of interest in their children's education, which results in their being less motivated to learn, a family member's increased level of attention to a child, which affects the child's mental health, or having average or poor financial circumstances (Simanjuntak, 2013). Teenagers who have experienced a broken home due to divorce will adjust to life after the breakup by developing feelings of insecurity, rejection from family, emotion, and self-blame (Magpantay, Malabrigo, Malijan, & Manarin, 2014; Miller, 2021).

The researchers then conducted initial interviews with 10 adolescents from broken homes from August 20–31, 2022, in order to address the issues that adolescents who experience broken homes. Based on the findings of these interviews, preliminary information indicated that some adolescents thought their experiences were very difficult to forget because they had a significant impact on their lives. Some of them also experienced moments of jealousy when they observed the atmosphere in the homes of their friends, making them feel incapable of coping with having parents who were not complete. The fact that one of their parents had abandoned them, some of them also felt they could not forgive. A child or adolescent who is raised in a harmonious family environment, where parents give their full attention and affection, tends to have a positive personality development, and vice versa. This is why the family factor is important for the development of adolescent personality. The family has a responsibility to provide for the financial, emotional, and affectional needs of children. The occurrence of conditions that lead to a broken home makes it challenging for families to meet the financial, emotional, and affectional needs of kids.

Resilience refers to emotions like the emergence of doubt in one's life, the existence of adaptation, and enduring and advancing through adversity (Iacoviello & Charney, 2014 Southwick, Pietrzak, Tsai, Krystal, & Charney, 2015). Resilience itself can be defined as a person's capacity to rise above adversity, and this circumstance is seen as something that can improve his mental health (Wolin & Wolin, 1999). Adolescents experience indirect resilience, which results from seven capacities, including the capacity to be honest with oneself, the emergence of an independent identity, beginning an honest relationship, having a sense of peace by expressing it through humor, and the desire to live in better circumstances and to be productive, creative, and proactive in life (Wolin & Wolin, 1999).

According to research by Rahmawati, Listiyandini, and Rahmatika (2019), people who are resilient will respect themselves more, ask for help from others, and look for motivation from others in order to overcome adversity. Adolescents with low resilience will face many challenges in life, which will make them feel depressed, emotionally irritable, less confident, and hopeless about the future (Rahmawati et al., 2019). Adolescents with high levels of resilience, on the other hand, tend to be more upbeat and optimistic about the future (Clonan-Roy, Jacobs, & Nakkula, 2016). According to Missasi

and Izzati's (2019) research, resilience is influenced by a number of factors. These elements include social support and internal elements such as spirituality, self-efficacy, optimism, and self-esteem. There are instances where individuals who have practiced self-resilience are able to evaluate themselves from a religious perspective and use religion as a point of reference in their lives (Detta & Abdullah, 2017). The capacity to forgive and see life in a more positive light is one example of spirituality in this context.

Forgiveness is a set of motivations to alleviate feelings of hatred for vengeance (McCullough et al., 2000). Forgiving behavior is distinguished by a reduction or elimination of the motivation to exact vengeance and behavior to avoid arguments (McCullough et al., 2000). Forgiveness can improve empathy and quality of life. Another effect is that it can reduce stress, create a desire not to seek vengeance, commit bullying, and reduce symptoms of depression (Saputro & Nashori, 2017). If someone refuses to forgive, it is the same as refusing to escape from that situation, and it will cause psychological pressure, which will lead to stress and other symptoms of psychological disorders (Toussaint, Shields, & Slavich, 2016).

The ability to forgive oneself is essential for good survival. According to research by Habibi and Hidayati (2017), there is a moderate level of correlation between new students' resilience and self-forgiveness, other people's forgiveness, and situational forgiveness. Furthermore, it is clarified that this is a process of meaning-seeking even though every act of forgiveness will always involve a difficult bargain with the victim. Additionally, according to research by Setyawan (2021), the more forgiving a person is, the more self-reliant they are, as doing so helps them avoid feeling the need to take revenge, harm the person who caused them the hurt, and transform their feelings and behavior into something more constructive. Self-resilience greatly benefits from forgiveness. Self-resilience can be attained through forgiving behavior, which is the first step (Hafnidar, Junita, & Zahara, 2021). When he experiences inner peace, a person will be able to endure hardship and overcome it. Self-resilience can be demonstrated through forgiveness and agreeableness, according to Saputro and Nashori's (2017) research.

Although the relationship between forgiveness and resilience has been discussed in a number of earlier studies, the child's process of living through each day until he discovers his parents are divorced and ultimately becomes a child. Broken homes are difficult. This is due to the fact that kids frequently do not receive love from both of their parents and frequently hear their parents argue loudly and use harsh language. Researchers are interested in learning how adolescents from broken homes can be resilient and forgiving. Researchers chose this topic because forgiving parents and coming to terms with broken home conditions is a difficult task, especially for adolescents. According to the findings of researcher-conducted interviews, which show that adolescents typically come from families with broken homes, the condition of his divorced family was difficult for him to accept. This circumstance is consistent with the findings of Harefa and Savira (2021), who found that making peace with a broken home or forgiving parents is difficult for the individual because of the many traumatic experiences he has had there. Forgiveness is therefore crucial in this situation.

Researchers are curious to know if there is a connection between forgiveness and resilience in adolescents who have experienced a broken home divorce because growing up in an incomplete family (broken home) can be a challenging experience for people to go through. The proposed research hypothesis further states that forgiveness and resilience in adolescents with broken homes are positively correlated.

Method

The research method used was quantitative with a correlational design to assess the relationship between forgiveness (X) and resilience (Y), particularly in adolescents who experienced family divorce. The study included 216 adolescents who were recruited from their homes using purposive sampling techniques. Adolescents in this study ranged in age from 15 to 19 years and experienced broken home divorce since childhood (ages 6 to 12 years) (Jannah, 2015). Table 1 shows demographic information about research participants.

Table 1. Demographics of Research Participants							
Participant Classification	Information	Information N					
Gender	Female	141	65.3%				
	Male	75	34.7%				
Total		216	100%				
Age	15 years	8	3.7%				
	16 years	15	6.9%				
	17 years	20	9.3%				
	18 years	64	29.6%				
	19 years old	109	50.5%				
Total		216	100%				

The data was collected using a psychological scale (questionnaire) provided by Google Form (https://forms.gle/cKggHjdfZ9Qo2i4G6). In this study, two scales were used for Measurement: the forgiveness scale and the resilience scale. The forgiveness scale used was Transgression Related Interpersonal Motivations 18 Version Loading Factor from McCullough, Root, and Cohen (2006) which was adapted by Agung (2015). The forgiveness scale was compiled based on the components of forgiveness proposed by McCullough (2000) including avoidance motivations, revenge motivations and benevolence motivations. The forgiveness scale consisted of 17 items including statements favorable and unfavorable by using five selected responses from the Likert model such as Very Unfavorable, Somewhat Unfavorable, Indifferent, Somewhat Favorable, Very Favorable. The results of the item discrimination power test, obtained 12 items that passed with total item correlation values ranging from 0.314 to 0.726 and Alpha Cronbach of 0.872 (very reliable).

The Resiliency Attitudes and Skills Profile (RASP) from Hurtes and Allen (2001) was used to measure resilience, which included the ability to be honest with oneself, the emergence of a sense of independence, the beginning of honest relationships, the ability to create a positive atmosphere when under pressure, initiative in life, creativity, and the desire to live in better and more productive conditions. The resilience scale was then translated into Indonesian and validated by an expert opinion by the researcher. The Likert scale's 34 items were divided into statements that are favorable and unfavorable using five specific responses: Very Unfavorable, Somewhat Unfavorable, Indifferent, Somewhat Favorable, Very Favorable. The item discrimination power test results revealed that 32 items passed, with total item correlation values ranging from 0.363 to 0.689 and an Alpha Cronbach's alpha coefficient of 0.93 (very reliable).

The product-moment correlation from Spearman's Rho was used to analyze all the data. A statistical program for social science (SPSS) 25 version for MacOS was used to test the research data.

Result and Discussion

Table 2 revealed that most adolescents who experienced a broken home divorce had a moderate score for forgiveness items, with a percentage of 68.1% (Mean 34.164 and standard deviation of 9.775). Most of them also had a moderate category for the resiliency, with a percentage of 70.4% (Mean 127.995 and standard deviation 18.608).

Table 2. Research Variable Categorization							
Variable	Mean	SD	Percentage	Category			
Forgiveness	34.162	9.775	68.1%	Moderate			
Resilience	127.995	18.608	70.4%	Moderate			

 Table 2. Research Variable Categorization

The correlation coefficient value in Table 5 with Spearman's Rho correlation test was 0.200 with a sign of 0.002 (p<0.01). This showed that forgiveness and resilience had a meaningfully positive relationship in adolescents who experienced a broken home divorce. In other words, the higher the forgiveness given, the higher the resilience tendency of adolescents with broken home divorce. Given that forgiveness accounts for 4% (r^2) of the variance in the resilience variable. It could be concluded that forgiveness affected both adolescent resilience and broken home divorce.

Table 3. Spearman's Rho Correlation Test				
	r _{xy}	Significance		
Forgiveness and Resilience	0.200**	0.002		

The test results in Table 4 revealed that the 216 participants' forgiveness levels were categorized into three groups: high, moderate, and low. Aspect-related avoidance motivations comprised 68.1% of the moderate category (147 people). With a percentage of 73.6%, Aspect revenge motivation was in the moderate category (159 people). Aspect benevolence motivations had a percentage of 38%, placing them in the moderate category (82 people). Most adolescents who were broken home among the three aspects of forgiveness in this study had a high level of forgiveness in revenge motivations (73.6% or 159 people).

Table 4. Forgiveness Level of Each Aspect										
Aspect	Ν	High	Ν	Moderate	Ν	Low				
Avoidance motivations	33	15.3%	147	68.1%	36	16.7%				
Revenge motivations	33	15.3%	159	73.6%	24	11.1%				
Benevolence motivations	72	33.3%	82	38%	62	28.7%				

Table 7 displayed the test results for the 216 participants, which were divided into three categories: high, moderate, and low. The ability to be honest with oneself was in the moderate category with a percentage of 68.1% (147 people). The revenge motivation

of independence, which was in the moderate category with a percentage of 69% (149 people). With a percentage of 76.9% (166 people), the aspect of starting an honest relationship was also in the moderate category. The Initiative aspect had a percentage of 70.8%, which was in the moderate range (153 people). Ability to foster a supportive environment when under pressure was rated in the moderate category with a percentage of 48.1%. (104 people). With a percentage of 61.6% (133 people), the creativity component was categorized as moderate. The desire to live better and more productive was in the moderate category with a percentage of 65.7% (142 people). Of the three seven characteristics of resilience, it showed that the majority of the divorced broken home adolescents who participated in this study had a noticeable level of resilience in the component of establishing an honest relationship, with the biggest percentage; that was 76.9%. (166 people).

Characteristics	Ν	High	Ν	Moderate	Low			
Ability for self-honesty	24	11.1%	147	68.1%	20.8%			
The development of independence	31	14.4%	149	69%	16.7%			
Start a sincere relationship	22	10.2%	166	76.9%	13%			
Initiative	23	10.6%	153	70.8%	18.5%			
Able to create a positive atmosphere when under pressure	67	31%	104	48.1%	20.8%			
The existing of creativity	50	23.1%	133	61.6%	15.3%			
The desire to live in better and more productive conditions	36	16.7%	142	65.7%	17.6%			

 Table 5. Resilience Level of Each Characteristic

Based on the results of the correlation test of forgiveness with each aspect of resilience in Table 9, it was found that the correlation coefficient between forgiveness and the ability for self-honest was 0.138 with Sig = 0.02 (p<0.05), indicating that there was a positive correlation between the ability for self-honesty and forgiveness in adolcents from broken homes with divorced parents. Additionally, a 0.208 correlation coefficient with sig. = 0,001 (p<0.05) between forgiveness and the development of independence was found, indicating that a positive correlation between forgiving others and the traits that lead to independence has been discovered. The correlation coefficient between forgiveness and the development of independence was 0.136, with a significance level of 0.023 (p<0.05) for forgiveness by the establishment of an honest relationship. There was a positive correlation between forgiveness and initiative characteristics, as evidenced by the variable's correlation coefficient of 0.152 with a sig. = 0.013 (p<0.05). The correlation coefficient between forgiveness and the ability to foster an atmosphere of positivity when under pressure was 0.153, with a significance level of 0.012 (p<0.05), indicating a significant positive correlation between the two.

There was a correlation between forgiveness and characteristics of creativity, as evidenced by the coefficient correlation of 0.138 with sig. = 0.022 (p<0.05). The correlation coefficient between the variables of forgiveness and the desire to live in better and more productive conditions was 0.267 with a sig. = 0.000 (p<0.05). This indicates that there was a significant positive correlation between these two variables. This demonstrated that each of the resilience traits and the variable forgiveness had a strong positive correlation.

			Correlations						
		Resilience Characteristics	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Spearman's Rho	Forgiveness	Correlation Coefficient	0.138*	0.208*	0.136*	0.152*	0.153*	0.138*	0.267*
		Sig. (1-tailed)	0.021	0.001	0.023	0.013	0.012	0.022	0.000
	Ν	216	216	216	216	216	216	216	

Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (1-tailed)

**. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (1-tailed)

The research findings show that there is a significant positive correlation between forgiveness and resilience in adolescents who have experienced a broken home due to a divorce. This means that the higher the forgiveness, the higher the resilience of broken home divorce adolescents. The results of this study are in line with the findings of Hafnidar et al. (2021) that forgiveness is one of the factors that makes individuals able to endure in painful or resilient conditions.

Resilience has to do with a person's capacity to forgive themselves for painful situation that happened to them or to find peace with the bad circumstances in their lives. One's capacity to endure painful or traumatic circumstances will eventually depend on their ability to maintain a stable mental state (Muzaffar, 2017). In line with Seery, Leo, Lupien, Kondrak, and Almonte (2013) that resilience is an individual's process of responding to something in a more positive way when faced with adversity or trauma, especially to control the pressures of everyday life.Worthington Jr dkk. (2016) in his research proves that forgiveness is effective in increasing resilience. This is also proven by research conducted by Kim and Lee (2014) that forgiveness can increase resilience in wives who are victims of husband violence due to alcohol.

Participants in this study exhibited a moderate level of resilience, indicating that they were adolescents who had experienced a broken home divorce and were capable of enduring the circumstances of their family's divorce, which is characterized by forgiveness (Hafnidar et al., 2021). Reivich and Shatte (2002) add that the presence of protective characteristics emanating from people, such as the capacity for forgiveness, tends to encourage self-improvement when faced with challenging circumstances. As a result, being a resilient person will be possible with the existence of individual forgiveness.

The study's participants were in the moderate category, particularly in terms of their capacity for self-honesty. One aspect of being able to be honest with oneself is the degree to which a person can understand and be honest with themselves. The capacity to admit to oneself that one is hurt, experiencing injustice, or in a painful situation demonstrates that one has attained the qualities of being able to be truthful, acknowledge oneself, and start to forgive (Muvariz, Fitriani, Nisrina, and Nashori, 2020).

The emergence of independence is another trait shared by people with average resilience. Insofar as people start to think they can handle their own difficulties, forgiveness is crucial for the growth of independence (Gençolu, Ahin, & Topkaya, 2018). That is, teenagers who have suffered a broken home and divorce start to become independent enough to handle their own issues amid the trying circumstances they have faced. Forgiveness has an impact on this independence and has an impact on each person's capacity for resilience (Muvariz et al., 2020). People are better able to gradually handle their own problems, survive, and endure terrible occurrences when they have

learned to forgive the traumatic experiences they have (Dursun & Eryilmaz, 2019;Fatchurrahmi & Sholichah, 2020).

Indirectly experiencing a broken home when a person is in their adolescence can harm their relationship with their parents and have an effect on how they behave around their friends (Basson, 2013). Nonetheless, a person with resilience will be able to establish a positive, sincere, and helpful partnership (Parisi & Huwae, 2022). In this study, participants were rated as having a moderate capacity for establishing an honest connection. In other words, individuals have no trouble establishing relationships or communication in their social context. Hadianti, Nurwati, and Darwis (2018) further explains that people who can start healthy relationships, particularly in their social environment, where they are able to comprehend the advantages of doing so with social environments of the same age or with different ages, are people who can survive from painful situation.

Good initiative and resilience go together in hand (Cinderby, Haq, Cambridge, & Lock, 2016). Even after going through adversity, an initiative person will continually work to better oneself. The degree to which a person can foster a good environment while confronted with a difficult scenario is another indicator of their resilience. Given that Walsh (2020) views pressure as a good thing, this state is consistent with his belief that a resilient person will succeed in surviving a hazardous occurrence. Furthermore Kravchuk's research (2021), which revealed that resilient people will view pressure as a challenge, indicates that resilient people believe that knowledge obtained from difficult situations can aid in their own personal growth.

One of the traits of people with strong resilience is the development of creativity. Creativity is how people see and come up with solutions to the issues they encounter (Feldman, 2020). This is consistent with Kravchuk's research (2021) in Ukraine that resilient people exhibit the development of inventiveness and high self-control. In other words, people have the freedom to select their own path in life, are creative problem-solvers, and are genuinely helpful to themselves. A resilient person is one who takes initiative and responsibility for life and the issues they encounter, according to Wolin & Wolin (1999).

Characteristics of personal resiliency include a desire to live better, more productive. Resilience, or the capacity to endure difficult or traumatic situations, enables people to constructively respond to the negative effects of terrible situations occurring to them (Martnez-Mart & Ruch, 2017). This is consistent with the findings of a study done by Duan, Guo, and Gan (2015), who said that resilient people are able to weigh the consequences of every choice they make in life, especially under pressure from stressful situations like emergencies, stress, or trauma. Participants in this survey expressed a wish to live in better, more productive conditions than those considered adequate or moderate.

People must forgive in order to see the traumatic experiences they go through as a good lesson for growing to be a better person in life (Griffin et al., 2016; Jaufalaily & Himam, 2017). Malkoç and Yalçin (in Salsabila, Karmiyati, & Hijrianti, 2019) argue that those who have a high level of resilience will be able to maintain their physical and mental health and may even be able to recover from traumatic experiences more quickly. Forgiveness is one of the aspects that contribute to strong resilience. This is supported by numerous previous research of a correlation between forgiveness and resilience (Kumar & Dixit, 2014; Kaloeti, Salma, Rahmandani, Sakti, & Suparno, 2020). Studies involving samples from adolescents (Mary & Patra, 2015), adults (Broyles, 2005), and samples from particular population groups all shows similar research findings (Abid, 2015; Kang & Kim, 2015; Kim & Lee, 2014 ; Waldron, Braithwaite, Oliver, Kloeber, & Marsh, 2018). Individuals are able to develop their ability to withstand painful or traumatic situations, which will help them manage the stress these experiences cause and improve their interpersonal skills (Sudirman,Soud, Rouzi, & Sari, 2019; Thompson & Korsgaard, 2019).

Adolescents experiencing unpleasant situations from others will release sentiments of despair, rage, and hatred when they forgive (Kravchuk, 2020), especially those who have experienced a broken home divorce and have suffered terrible experiences as a result of their parents' divorce. Forgiveness is the first stage in the formation or development of improved individual resilience, according to Kravchuk's most recent research (2021), which also emphasizes the direct relationship between forgiveness of oneself, forgiveness of others, and resilience.

For adolescents who have experienced a broken home divorce, forgiveness can be difficult to practice because, prior to the decision to separate, the child must go through a difficult circumstance where they are frequently exposed to their parents' arguments. This will have an effect on adolescents' behavior because of the broken home divorce, which they will ultimately attribute to himself, which will have an effect on their learning (Gustavsen, Nayga, & Wu, 2016). When a child enters adolescence, the effects of a broken home will start to become apparent because this is the time when the youngster is making the shift from childhood to maturity (Sands, Thompson, & Gaysina, 2017). Parents are one of the most significant factors influencing the conduct of adolescents, despite the fact that many other factors also have an impact on behavior development (Jackson, Rogers, & Sartor, 2016).

According to this study, forgiveness is a process that enables people to let go of bitterness and animosity they may have harbored toward their parents' divorce decision. This is consistent with Jaufalaily and Himam's (2017) findings that when people forgive, their negative feelings and thoughts transform to neutral and subsequently to good ones. Those who are able to forgive will find it simpler to endure and adjust to their circumstances, especially if they are teens with shattered homes.

Results from this research have been promising. Yet, there are some limitations. This study's shortcoming is that forgiving others is a difficult concept, especially for adolescents. divorce in a broken home necessitates more specialized psychological services, such as counseling or support. In addition, the goal of this research is only to find out the concept of the correlation between forgiveness and resilience, not yet covering mental dynamics in depth, especially for broken home divorced youth.

Conclusion

Based on the findings of the research, it can be said that the research hypothesis that there is a strong positive correlation between forgiveness and resilience in adolescents with a broken home divorce. This study also discovered that adolescents who have had a broken home divorce have a moderate category of forgiveness and resilience. Forgiveness effectively contributes 4% to resilience, indicating that it is one of the factors affecting resilience, particularly for adolescents experiencing a broken home divorce.

Based on the research done, recommendations for further research are expected to be done to advance this research by looking at other aspects of increased personal resilience and enlisting the help of some mentoring or psychological services to fully understand the participants' mental dynamics.

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All authors contributed to the preparation of the article.

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