

## *The Model of Intergenerational Relation in Balinese Family*

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### **Abstract**

Change of family structure becomes something relevant to be studied in the era of ageing population. In 2030 it is predicted that the family structure will tend to form an inverted pyramid, where the number of older people in the family is more than that of adults and children. Change of family structure has an impact on changes in the patterns of intergenerational relations in the family. Economic advancement and high population mobility make the interaction between generations in the family lessen. The subsequent growing issue is on intergenerational relations and the role of caregiving for older people in the era of ageing population. This research conducted in Bali by taking into account that Bali is one of the provinces with the largest number of older people in Indonesia. The next unique characteristic is that the Balinese Hindu community embraces a patrilineal kinship system, where caregiving for older people is provided by sons and daughters-in-law in a family. Contrary to some research related to older people caregivers, which suggests that daughter take a significant role in comparison to son. The aims of the study were to discover the model of intergenerational relation in Balinese family. The research was qualitative study using grounded theory. There were 15 participants, above 60 years old, who live in urban area in Bali. The results showed six major themes in family, namely the couple interaction, parents and children interaction, grandparents and grandchildren interaction, kinship, generation gap, and the meaning of family.

Keywords: intergenerational relation, older people, family

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## Introduction

The proportion of elderly people (seniors) in Indonesia has increased from year to year. This condition has caused Indonesia to enter the era of ageing population, where the average age in a country gradually increases as life expectancy increases and the birth rate is low. Bali is one of the five provinces in Indonesia with the highest number of elderly people. Bali is ranked fourth after Yogyakarta, East Java, and Central Java, followed by South Sulawesi in the fifth place (Indonesia Central Agency of Statistics (BPS) in Lestari, 2016a). According to BKKBN (National Family Planning Coordinating Agency), in 1995 the proportion of elderly population in Bali was 8.93%, while in 2007 the percentage raised to 11.02%. By 2016 the number was estimated to be twice of that in 1995 (BPS, 2014). The increase in the number of elderly people supported by the increasing socioeconomic level of society leads to the increase of life expectancy. Back in 2000, the life expectancy of the people in Bali was 68.1 years and increased to 70.5 years in 2006. This figure exceeds the average national life expectancy at 66.2 years (Rimbawa, 2015).

Changes in family structure have become relevant in the ageing population. By 2030 it is predicted that the family structure will tend to shape like a reverse pyramid, where the number of elderly people in one family is more than the number of adults and children (Gillens, Mills, & Jump, 2015). Changes in family structure have an impact on the changing patterns of intergenerational relationships within the family. Families in the 21st century deal with the issue of aging that is relatively different compared to families in the previous generation. Entering the 21st century, life expectancy is increasing, resulting in family members living longer than the previous generations. Blieszner (in Qualls & Williams, 2013) mentions that some experiences which families will possibly go through in the 21st century are among others that people will spend their old age three times longer than the time they spent when they were a child; the average age may last up to 80 years; adults will take care of their parents aged over 60 years longer than the time they take to raise their children; middle-aged adults will have more elderly parents than children; and women will potentially live alone in their old age.

Furthermore, Hagestad (in Qualls & William, 2013) says that intergenerational structures within the family will also undergo changes. There will be an increase in which three or more generations will live together in several periods. On the other hand, as the family structure develops vertically, the average birth rate in one family drops dramatically. Consequently, an individual will have fewer brothers or sisters than their previous generation does. In some families, this can be burdensome as there are not enough people to share the burden of duty and work in the household with, causing the responsibility for one person to become greater. One of the most burdensome household tasks with great responsibilities is caregiving. Children and the elderly are the largest groups in need of family care. On the other hand, economic advancement and high population mobility make intergenerational interactions within the family lessen. The living arrangement that is originally an extended family develops into a nuclear family for grown up and married children (Lestari, 2016b).

The subsequent growing issues are in the pattern of intergenerational relationships, and the role of caregiving for the elderly in the ageing population.

This research is conducted in Bali considering that Bali is one of the provinces with the largest number of the elderly in Indonesia. Bali is one of the top five provinces with the highest proportion of elderly people in Indonesia. In 2006, the average life expectancy in Bali was 70.5 years, far above the national average of 66.2 years (Rimbawa, 2015). These conditions have an impact on parenting roles. The older generation can run a parenting role to the grandchildren, but on the other hand the older generation also needs the support and care of the generations after them.

This research is a qualitative research with the grounded theory approach. This grounded theory research aims to build a model of intergenerational relationships and the role of the elderly in parenting in their family in Bali from the contextual interpretation of the research respondents. The data were collected through interviews and observation of 15 participants (seniors). The data were then analyzed using the coding analysis techniques proposed by Strauss and Corbin, i.e. open coding, axial coding, and selective coding (Strauss & Corbin, 1990).

## **Conclusion**

Family is an important thing for the elderly. Family is their source of support, who at the same time also needs their support. The patterns of interaction with the generation after them are very much determined by the stage of development where the family members are. Interactions with their grandchildren are affected by the living arrangements. The elderly living with their children, children-in-laws, and grandchildren surely have better interactions, both quantity and quality-wise. Intergenerational differences become something that naturally happens and are not a source of conflicts in the family. Relationships with distant relatives also become closer in the old age. The elderly people spend their spare time farming, getting involved in community's social activities, taking some role in organizations, and exercising when they return to their home village. Reciprocity is displayed in their interactions with family members. Elderly people also want to still be regarded as independent individuals and do not wish to be a burden to the other family members.

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