

# **The Influence of Financial Learning and Filial Piety On Retirement Planning in Malaysia**

## **ABSTRACT**

The study examines the issues of financial learning and children's filial responsibilities in relation to retirement financial planning. A total of 750 questionnaires (550 in English and 200 in Chinese) were emailed or handed over to respondents. Of these questionnaires, 404 sets were completed and returned, giving a 53.9% return rate. Altogether eleven hypotheses on both financial learning and filial piety were tested. Sample data were analysed by hierarchical regression, ordinary regression and stepwise regression analyses, wherever appropriate. For purposes of measuring retirement saving status, demographic characteristics (such as age, education, employment) were employed as key variables. Financial literacy issues were also used as contributing factors for old age retirement planning. Some aspects of filial piety were also the key determinants in the provision of elderly people's emotional, financial and psychological support as well as in intergenerational relationships between parents and children. Firstly, the findings had strengthened the theory that financial literacy could significantly contribute to respondents' economic well-being, where education was found as the significant predictor. The contributions were predominantly reflected e.g. in respondents' satisfaction with their financial situations from the behavioural assessment and perceived financial well-being perspectives, respectively. Furthermore, the mediating effect was also more predominant among the (50+) age group from the subjective perception perspective but not in circumstances where the older age groups were relatively more significant predictors. Secondly, enquiry into the filial piety issues has also produced positive results such that the more children were in contact with parents, the more support parents would give them

(with age as a predictor especially among the above 50-year old groups). However, these views were not generally shared by all parents, as the research has also revealed that variables with contact by children were found insignificant in some cases. On the one hand, more well-to-do parents than parents with little money were likely to co-reside with their adult children, but the longer the children were away from home, the less likely they would feel obligated to parents. This finding was especially true among the 30-39 and above-60 age groups. On the other hand (and contrary to general belief), adult children with higher level of household income and of filial responsibility might not necessarily provide for more opportunity for supporting parents. The study further indicated that the intergenerational relationships (such as contact frequency, residential proximity, parents' support) were also important considerations for children to demonstrate their support to parents or refrain from so doing. Notwithstanding this, there was a close relationship between the support given to/received from children, and this relationship was fully substantiated by variables (age, employment type, gender and marital status). Based on similar variables, a positive relationship was also to have existed between parents' filial expectations and children's expectations. Finally, the study also indicated that the combination of financial literacy and filial piety (Hypothesis 11) has produced some positive result in the area of behavioural assessment, satisfaction with financial situation and perceived financial well-being. This result has demonstrated the existence of some combined mediating effect in influencing Malaysians in their decision to plan for their retirement security adequacy.

## ABSTRAK

Kajian ini meneliti masalah ilmu kewangan dan tanggung jawab belajar berbakti anak-anak dalam kaitannya dengan perancangan bersara kewangan. Sebanyak 750 soal selidik (550 dalam Bahasa Inggeris dan 200 dalam bahasa Cina) yang dihantar melalui e-mel atau diserahkan kepada responden. Dari soal selidik tersebut, 404 set diselesaikan dan kembali, memberikan pulangan 53.9%. Secara keseluruhan sebelas hipotesis pada kedua-dua belajar kewangan dan ketaatan kepada ibu bapa diuji. Data sampel dianalisis dengan regresi hirarkis, regresi biasa dan analisis regresi berperingkat, di mana pun yang sesuai. Untuk tujuan pengukuran status bersara tabungan, ciri-ciri demografi (seperti usia kerja, pendidikan) yang bekerja sebagai pembolehubah utama. Masalah keaksaraan Kewangan juga digunakan sebagai faktor sumbangan untuk perancangan bersara usia tua. Beberapa aspek ketaatan kepada ibu bapa juga merupakan penentu utama dalam penyediaan sokongan emosional orang tua itu, kewangan dan psikologi serta dalam hubungan antar generasi antara ibu bapa dan anak-anak. Pertama, penemuan yang menguatkan teori bahawa celik kewangan secara signifikan dapat memberikan sumbangan untuk responden kesejahteraan ekonomi di mana pendidikan dijumpai sebagai prediktor signifikan. Sumbangan tersebut terutama tercermin misalnya dalam kepuasan responden dengan situasi kewangan mereka dari penilaian perilaku dan dirasakan perspektif kesejahteraan kewangan masing-masing. Selanjutnya, kesan pengantaraan juga lebih dominan di antara (50 +) kumpulan umur dari perspektif persepsi subjektif tetapi tidak dalam keadaan di mana kumpulan usia yang lebih tua prediktor relatif lebih signifikan. Kedua, penyelidikan atas isu ketaatan kepada ibu bapa juga telah menghasilkan keputusan yang positif, sehingga anak-anak lagi yang kenalan dengan orang tua, orang tua lebih banyak sokongan akan memberi mereka (dengan usia sebagai prediktor khususnya di antara kumpulan-kumpulan

di atas berusia 50-tahun). Namun, pandangan ini tidak umum dimiliki oleh semua orang tua, sebagai lokasi kajian juga mendedahkan bahawa pembolehubah dengan kenalan dengan anak-anak ditemui bermakna dalam beberapa kes. Di satu sisi, lebih baik yang harus dilakukan orang tua dari orang tua dengan sedikit wang yang kemungkinan co-tinggal dengan anak-anak-anak dewasa mereka, tetapi semakin lama anak-anak jauh dari rumah, semakin kecil kemungkinan mereka akan merasa berkewajiban untuk orang tua. Penemuan ini terutama terjadi antara 30-39 dan di atas 60 kumpulan umur. Di sisi lain (dan bertentangan dengan kepercayaan umum), anak-anak dewasa dengan peringkat lebih tinggi daripada pendapatan rumah tangga dan tanggung jawab berbakti mungkin tidak perlu menyediakan lebih banyak peluang untuk menyokong orang tua. Penelitian lebih lanjut menunjukkan bahawa hubungan antara generasi (seperti frekuensi kenalan, kedekatan perumahan, sokongan orang tua) juga menjadi pertimbangan penting bagi anak untuk menunjukkan sokongan mereka kepada orang tua atau menahan diri dari melakukan perkara. Meskipun demikian, ada hubungan yang erat antara sokongan yang diberikan kepada/diterima daripada anak-anak, dan hubungan ini sepenuhnya dibuktikan dengan pembolehubah (umur, jenis pekerjaan, jenis kelamin dan status perkahwinan). Berdasarkan pembolehubah yang sama, hubungan positif juga sudah ada di antara harapan berbakti orang tua dan harapan anak-anak. Akhirnya, kajian ini juga menunjukkan bahawa gabungan celik kewangan dan ketaatan kepada ibu bapa (Hipotesis 11) telah menghasilkan beberapa hasil yang positif dalam bidang penilaian perilaku, kepuasan dengan situasi kewangan dan dirasakan kesejahteraan kewangan. Keputusan ini telah menunjukkan adanya beberapa kesan pengantaraan digabungkan dalam mempengaruhi Malaysia dalam keputusan mereka untuk merancang kecukupan keselamatan mereka bersara.

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