

Original Article

Roles and Challenges of Social Workers in Elderly Care: A Qualitative Study of the ATENSI-LU Program at STPL Bekasi, Indonesia

Dwi Heru Sukoco^{*a,1}, Elin Herlina^{*b}^a ^bPoliteknik Kesejahteraan Sosial Bandung, Bandung¹ Corresponding Author: dwiheruskc888@gmail.com

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ABSTRACT

Indonesia's aging population necessitates effective social work interventions to enhance the well-being and social inclusion of older adults. This study examines the role of social workers in elderly care, focusing on the ATENSI-LU program at Sentra Terpadu Pangudi Luhur (STPL) Bekasi, West Java. The literature review identifies gaps in applying social work practices in culturally diverse contexts, emphasizing the need for culturally tailored interventions, best practice identification, interdisciplinary collaboration, technology integration, advocacy strategies, culturally sensitive empowerment, and enhancing cultural competence among social workers. Using a qualitative multi-method approach including focus groups, interviews, observation, and document analysis, the study explores social work practices within ATENSI-LU, assessing roles, challenges, and program effectiveness. Findings contribute to advancing elderly care in Indonesia by offering insights into culturally appropriate practices, informing policy development, refining social work roles and training, and identifying best practices applicable in diverse Indonesian settings. The study illuminates interdisciplinary collaboration dynamics and culturally sensitive empowerment in elderly care.

Keywords:

ATENSI-LU program; STPL Bekasi; and the role of social workers.

INTRODUCTION

The global phenomenon of population aging presents both opportunities and challenges for societies worldwide. This demographic shift is particularly pronounced in Indonesia, where the elderly population, defined as those over 60 years old, has seen a significant increase in recent years. According to the Central Statistics Agency (2020), the number of elderly individuals in Indonesia rose from 18 million in 2010 to 25.9 million in 2019, representing 9.7% of the total population. Projections indicate a continuation of this trend, with the elderly population expected to reach 48.2 million, or 15.77% of the population, by 2035 [21].

This rapid demographic transition has far-reaching implications across multiple domains of Indonesian society, including healthcare systems, social services, economic structures, and community organizations. As life expectancy increases, there is a growing imperative to ensure the well-being, dignity, and social inclusion of older adults. However, the elderly population faces a complex array of challenges that can significantly impact their quality of life and ability to function independently within society.

The challenges confronting the elderly in Indonesia are multifaceted and interconnected, encompassing physical, psychological, social, and economic dimensions. Physiological and biological decline is inherent in aging, leading to deterioration in various organ systems, sensory capabilities, and physiological functions [1], [12]. This natural process contributes to increased frailty, susceptibility to illnesses, and functional limitations that affect daily living activities [1], [11].

Psychological and cognitive changes also characterize aging, with many elderly individuals experiencing shifts in cognitive processes and emotional regulation [6]. Conditions such as dementia, depression, and anxiety are prevalent among older populations,

posing significant challenges to mental health [6], [26]. Socially, aging often leads to social isolation and loneliness due to factors like retirement and reduced mobility, resulting in a contraction of social networks [10], [22]. This isolation contributes to negative health outcomes and reduced well-being among older adults [10].

Economically, the transition into retirement and reduced income streams can lead to financial insecurity among the elderly, impacting their access to essential services [14], [20]. Economic vulnerability exacerbates the challenges faced by older adults in maintaining their quality of life [14]. Moreover, elder abuse and neglect are significant concerns, with older adults being vulnerable to various forms of mistreatment that can have severe physical and emotional consequences [8], [33]. These issues highlight the need for robust social work interventions and advocacy to safeguard the rights and well-being of elderly populations [8], [26]. Lastly, ageism and social marginalization perpetuate negative stereotypes and discriminatory attitudes towards older adults, limiting their participation in societal activities and undermining their self-esteem [13], [35].

Addressing these challenges requires comprehensive social work approaches that integrate research-based interventions and advocacy efforts tailored to the diverse needs of elderly populations [35], [26]. The complexity and interconnectedness of these challenges highlight the need for comprehensive, multidisciplinary support systems and interventions to promote healthy and dignified aging in Indonesia.

Literature Review

Social work has long been recognized as a key profession in supporting the well-being of older adults. The increasing scale and complexity of elderly care demands a critical examination of how social work practices and systems are adapting to meet these evolving needs, particularly in the context of developing countries like Indonesia. Social workers dedicated to elderly care assume multifaceted roles essential for enhancing the well-being and quality of life of older adults. Central to their practice is the meticulous assessment and management of individual needs, whereby social workers conduct thorough evaluations and craft personalized care plans that integrate various services and resources to meet the specific needs of elderly clients [2], [8]. This comprehensive approach ensures that older adults receive holistic and coordinated care that respects their unique circumstances and preferences.

In addition to assessment and case management, social workers provide invaluable counselling and psychosocial support to elderly individuals, their families, and groups. This vital support addresses a spectrum of mental health issues, life adjustments, grief, and other psychosocial challenges encountered during the aging process [1], [11]. By fostering a supportive environment, social workers help older adults navigate these transitions with resilience and dignity. Moreover, social workers function as advocates for elderly clients, safeguarding their rights, and advocating for equitable access to essential services and supports. Through their advocacy efforts, social workers strive to influence policy changes that enhance the overall quality of life for older populations, ensuring their voices are heard and needs addressed at societal levels [12], [36].

Community organization and resource development constitute another critical role for social workers in elderly care. They actively engage in mobilizing community resources, cultivating support networks, and developing tailored programs that cater to the specific needs of elderly populations within local communities [15], [8]. This proactive approach strengthens community resilience and empowers older adults to live independently and participate actively in society.

Education is fundamental to the role of social workers in elderly care, as they impart knowledge and build capacity among elderly clients, their families, and communities on aging-related issues, available resources, and effective coping strategies [10], [15]. By promoting awareness and understanding, social workers contribute to empowering older adults and fostering supportive environments that promote healthy aging.

Furthermore, social workers contribute significantly to advancing knowledge and improving practice through research and program evaluation. By conducting research studies, they deepen insights into the needs and challenges faced by elderly populations, while evaluating the effectiveness of interventions and programs designed to enhance elderly care services [18], [41]. This evidence-based approach ensures continuous refinement and innovation in elderly care practices, ultimately improving outcomes for older adults.

The roles of social workers in elderly care are diverse and essential, encompassing assessment and case management, counseling and psychosocial support, advocacy and rights protection, community organization and resource development, education and capacity building, as well as research and program evaluation. These roles collectively contribute to promoting the well-being, autonomy, and dignity of older adults, reflecting the profession's commitment to enhancing the quality of life across the aging continuum. As the elderly population in Indonesia continues to grow, the demand for skilled social workers capable of addressing the complex needs of this demographic is likely to increase. This necessitates a thorough understanding of the current state of social work practice in elderly care within the Indonesian context, as well as the identification of areas for potential improvement and adaptation.

New Synthetic Theory

The literature on social work practice with elderly populations provides a foundational understanding of various roles, interventions, and approaches employed in this field. However, a critical examination reveals significant gaps in knowledge, particularly concerning the application of these practices in diverse cultural and economic contexts, such as Indonesia.

The predominant literature on elderly social work predominantly reflects Western paradigms, which may inadequately address the nuances of elderly care in Indonesia [1], [11]. Western models often prioritize individualistic values and independence, concepts that may diverge from prevailing familial and communal structures in Indonesian society. This disparity underscores the imperative for culturally sensitive interventions that align with local norms and values. Investigating methodologies to adapt international best practices to Indonesian contexts is paramount to enhancing the efficacy and relevance of elderly care interventions.

Despite the identification of various social work roles in elderly care, empirical evidence regarding their comparative effectiveness across diverse contexts and demographic subgroups remains sparse [15], [8]. In Indonesia, characterized by heterogeneous healthcare infrastructure and varying social support systems, there is a critical need to identify and promote best practices that are adaptable to resource-constrained environments. Systematic research efforts should prioritize rigorous evaluations of social work roles, assessing their impact on elderly well-being and optimizing service delivery efficiencies. This approach not only enriches the evidentiary base but also informs the development of tailored interventions that maximize limited resources.

Effective elderly care demands seamless interdisciplinary collaboration, yet research on how social workers can effectively engage with healthcare professionals, policymakers, and community stakeholders in nascent collaborative settings is insufficient [15], [8]. In Indonesia, where healthcare systems exhibit fragmentation and limited access to specialized care, understanding the dynamics of interdisciplinary teamwork is crucial. Investigating successful models of collaboration and elucidating barriers and facilitators to interdisciplinary approaches is essential for promoting holistic and integrated care frameworks for elderly populations.

The integration of digital technologies in elderly care remains an underexplored area, particularly in developing countries marked by substantial digital disparities among older adults [18], [41]. In Indonesia, where digital literacy and access to technological resources vary widely, exploring innovative digital interventions tailored to elderly needs is imperative. Research should prioritize understanding how technology can enhance service delivery, facilitate remote support, and promote social connectedness among older adults. This involves evaluating the acceptability, usability, and impact of technological solutions within the local context.

While the importance of advocacy in elderly care is acknowledged, there is limited exploration of effective strategies for influencing policy and promoting systemic changes that benefit elderly populations [36], [26]. In Indonesia, where policy frameworks are evolving, understanding the mechanisms through which social workers can advocate for elderly rights and drive policy reforms is essential. Research should focus on identifying successful advocacy campaigns, assessing policy impacts, and developing frameworks that empower social workers to effectuate meaningful policy changes.

Longitudinal research tracking the long-term outcomes of social work interventions for elderly populations is notably scarce, particularly within the Indonesian context [8], [26]. Understanding the sustained impact of social work roles on elderly well-being, quality of life, and social integration necessitates extended follow-up studies. Such research provides critical insights into the enduring benefits of interventions and informs the continuous improvement of elderly care practices.

In sum, addressing these gaps requires a multifaceted approach, encompassing cultural adaptation, empirical evaluation of roles, interdisciplinary collaboration, technology integration, policy advocacy, and longitudinal research. By systematically addressing these knowledge gaps, social work practices can be refined to better meet the complex needs of elderly populations, ensuring their well-being, dignity, and active participation in society.

METHODS

This research was conducted at STPL Bekasi, West Java, a Technical Implementation Unit of the Ministry of Social Affairs (UPT Kemensos), which is currently implementing a social rehabilitation assistance program for those in need of Social Welfare Services (PPKS), including the elderly. The focus of the research is on the role of social workers in the ATENSI-LU program, which includes stages such as access facilities, initial approach and mutual agreement, comprehensive and ongoing assessment, social service planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, post-service and termination, and various forms of social assistance.

The research employs a qualitative research design with a descriptive approach. According to Moleong, qualitative research methods aim to understand phenomena experienced by research subjects in a holistic manner and describe them in the form of words and language within a specific natural context [32]. Sugiyono adds that qualitative research is based on post-positivism philosophy, used to study natural object conditions where the researcher is the key instrument, data collection is done triangulation (combined), data analysis is inductive/qualitative, and the results emphasize meaning rather than generalization [41]. Descriptive research, as defined by Nazir, aims to create systematic, factual, and accurate descriptions regarding the facts, properties, and relationships between phenomena being investigated [34].

The primary data for this research directly relates to the role of social workers in the ATENSI-LU program, including data on the program's objectives, targets, service process/mechanism, and social assistance provided. Secondary data includes the profile of the Pangudi Luhur Bekasi Integrated Center, supporting and inhibiting factors in the role of social workers, and social workers' expectations for smooth and optimal implementation of their roles. Primary data sources are social workers, while secondary data sources are the elderly and the Head of STPL Bekasi or their representative structural officials.

In this research, various data collection techniques were employed to ensure a comprehensive understanding of the role of social workers in the ATENSI-LU program at STPL Bekasi. Firstly, interviews were conducted with social workers, the Head of the Pangudi Luhur Integrated Center, and elderly beneficiaries. These interviews aimed to gather detailed information about the program, the role of social workers, and the supporting and inhibiting factors in providing social services and assistance to the elderly [2], [3], [4]. Secondly, focus group discussions (FGDs) were organized, both in-person and via Zoom meetings. These FGDs provided a platform for multiple perspectives, enriching the data collected by bringing together different stakeholders to discuss their experiences and views [2], [3].

Observations were another crucial method used in this study. By observing the behavior of social workers during interviews and FGDs, as well as their activities in providing services and assistance, researchers could assess the actual conditions and practices within the social rehabilitation center [2], [3]. Additionally, documentation studies were conducted to gather secondary data. This included reviewing documents related to the profile of the Social Rehabilitation Center, the characteristics of social workers, and

visual documentation of their roles. These documents provided contextual background and supported the primary data collected through interviews and FGDs [2], [3].

The qualitative data analysis technique employed in this research adheres to the Miles & Huberman model, which encompasses three stages: data reduction, data display, and drawing conclusions [41]. This process is meticulously conducted before, during, and after fieldwork to ensure a thorough analysis of the collected data.

Before Fieldwork, the researchers analyze data from literature studies, previous research, preliminary or feasibility studies, and secondary data. This initial analysis helps in determining the research focus by providing a solid theoretical foundation and identifying key areas of interest [32], [41]. During Fieldwork, data collection and analysis occur simultaneously. This ongoing process allows researchers to derive meaningful insights in real-time. If any data is found to be insufficient or invalid, additional data collection and validity testing are performed to ensure the robustness of the findings. This iterative approach ensures that the data collected is comprehensive and reliable [32], [41]. After Fieldwork, the researchers compile and analyze all the collected data to produce a comprehensive report. This final analysis synthesizes the insights gained during the research and adheres to the writing procedures established by Poteles Bandung. The report reflects a detailed and systematic examination of the research findings [41].

In this research, data validity is ensured through four key tests: credibility, transferability, dependability, and confirmability [41].

Credibility is assessed by increasing persistence and extending observations. This means that researchers spend ample time engaging with the data and the research environment to ensure that their findings accurately reflect reality. By maintaining a prolonged engagement and making detailed observations, researchers can confidently ascertain the trustworthiness of their data [41]. Transferability is achieved by providing detailed descriptions of the research location, population, and informants. These comprehensive descriptions allow others to understand the context of the study fully. Consequently, other researchers can apply the findings to similar contexts, ensuring that the results are not just specific to one unique setting but can be relevant and useful in broader contexts [41]. Dependability is ensured through clear documentation of the research process. Every step of the research is meticulously recorded, providing a transparent account of how the study was conducted. This thorough documentation enables other researchers to replicate the study, thus verifying the consistency and reliability of the research findings [41].

Confirmability is attained by discussing the research findings with various stakeholders, including researchers, social workers, and structural officials. These discussions help to reach a consensus on the results, ensuring that the findings are not biased or influenced by the researchers' perspectives alone. By achieving agreement among a diverse group of stakeholders, the research findings are validated and their objectivity is confirmed [41]. Through these rigorous tests of credibility, transferability, dependability, and confirmability, the research ensures that its findings are robust, reliable, and applicable in various contexts, providing a solid foundation for further studies and practical applications [41].

RESULT

The ATENSI-LU program, initiated in 2020 and ongoing, represents a family, community, and residential-based approach to elderly social rehabilitation. Despite its framework and seven-stage service process, challenges persist in its implementation across various service providers and types of beneficiaries [11]. STPL Bekasi, as a direct implementing agency, has made strides in providing direct services to elderly individuals. However, the scale of service provision remains limited compared to the demand, largely due to fragmented implementation among regional and community-based social welfare institutions [22]. The Ministry of Social Affairs' centralization of program implementation and insufficient outreach and coordination efforts with regional entities contribute to this discrepancy [36].

The program's implementation varies between residential and community-based beneficiaries. Residential beneficiaries receive more comprehensive services, including physical, psychosocial, and vocational support, as well as accessibility aids [11]. In contrast, community-based services predominantly focus on basic needs fulfillment, reflecting a gap in awareness among seniors and social workers regarding the full spectrum of available assistance [4], [5]. Social workers play pivotal roles across the service process stages, facilitating access, conducting assessments, planning services, and monitoring outcomes. Their roles as enablers, brokers, negotiators, educators, initiators, coordinators, and group facilitators ensure effective service delivery and client integration into the center's community [2], [13].

Improving coordination, enhancing budget allocations, and expanding capacity-building efforts are critical for bridging current service gaps and optimizing the program's impact [19]. Addressing these challenges will enable the ATENSI-LU program to better meet the diverse needs of elderly beneficiaries, promoting holistic and sustainable social rehabilitation assistance [11]. Social workers serve as the backbone of Indonesia's Social Rehabilitation Assistance Program for the Elderly (ATENSI-LU). Their contributions extend far beyond simply delivering services. This article delves into the crucial roles social workers play at various stages of the program, specifically focusing on the comprehensive assessment, planning, and implementation phases [14].

In-Depth Assessment: Building the Foundation for Effective Intervention

The comprehensive assessment stage is where social workers meticulously gather information to build a holistic understanding of each elderly individual's situation. They act as enablers, collecting and analyzing medical, legal, physical, psychosocial, and spiritual data alongside family dynamics. This information serves as the bedrock for crafting personalized interventions [5]. Functioning as liaisons, social workers foster open communication with families and caregivers, gaining valuable insights into the elderly's daily challenges and support systems [13]. They also act as educators, empowering the elderly to actively participate in identifying their needs and collaborating on solutions. As coordinators, social workers ensure accurate completion of assessment forms and

collaborate with other professionals for a comprehensive analysis. Finally, their role as researchers involves meticulously gathering and analyzing data to draw meaningful conclusions that inform effective service planning and delivery [1], [10].

From Assessment to Action: Crafting a Personalized Service Plan

The planning stage transforms assessment findings into actionable strategies. Social workers, acting as enablers, translate identified needs into concrete goals and interventions [8]. They function as liaisons, connecting the elderly's needs with available resources within the Pangudi Luhur Bekasi Integrated Center. As educators, they ensure informed decision-making by educating the elderly and their families about the planned interventions. Their role as initiators involves proposing innovative solutions to enhance service delivery. Finally, social workers act as coordinators, ensuring cohesive service provision by collaborating with various stakeholders involved in the ATENSI-LU program. They also maintain the role of researchers, continuously gathering data to support the ongoing improvement and adaptation of services to meet evolving needs [14].

Bringing the Plan to Life: Implementing Services for Positive Change

The implementation stage puts the plan into action. Social workers, as enablers, directly deliver services tailored to the specific needs of each elderly individual, aiming to improve their quality of life [12]. They act as liaisons, fostering smooth service delivery by maintaining open communication and strong relationships with stakeholders. Social workers also champion the rights and entitlements of the elderly as advocates. They function as mediators, intervening in conflicts to ensure smooth program operation. Negotiation skills become crucial as they work towards agreements that reconcile differing perspectives among stakeholders. Social workers continue their role as educators, empowering the elderly with knowledge about available services to make informed choices. Their innovative spirit shines through as they act as initiators, constantly seeking ways to improve the quality and reach of services. Furthermore, they empower the elderly to build on their strengths and independence as empowerers. As coordinators, social workers orchestrate the efforts of various stakeholders to ensure effective service delivery aligned with program objectives. Finally, they remain dedicated to research, documenting and analyzing service data to contribute to evidence-based practices and continuous program improvement. Social workers also act as group facilitators, fostering peer support and collective problem-solving among the elderly participants [9].

Ensuring Program Effectiveness: Monitoring and Evaluation

The monitoring and evaluation stage ensures the program's effectiveness and adherence to standards. Social workers play a critical role as enablers, facilitating the process and overseeing quarterly monitoring and pre- and post-test evaluations. They act as mediators, resolving discrepancies among stakeholders and ensuring consensus in the evaluation outcomes. Social workers also contribute as educators, imparting knowledge and skills to monitoring and evaluation personnel. Furthermore, their research skills are crucial as they prepare guidelines, collect data, and analyze findings to generate comprehensive reports [15].

Sustainable Care and Community Integration: Post-Service and Termination

The post-service and termination stages focus on ensuring sustainable care for the elderly and their reintegration into their communities. Social workers act as enablers, identifying alternatives and providing support for transitioning elderly individuals, such as facilitating their return to families or aiding in productive engagements. They function as brokers, establishing connections with various service providers and community stakeholders for continued access to health, social, and population services. Social workers equip the elderly with the necessary skills and information through their educator role, enabling them to adapt to their new environments [11].

DISCUSSION

This study explores the multifaceted roles of social workers within the ATENSI-LU program at the Pangudi Luhur Integrated Center (STPL) Bekasi, focusing on their implementation and the challenges they face in fulfilling their roles effectively [6]. The research identifies eleven distinct roles played by social workers in the ATENSI-LU program: Enabler, Broker, Advocate, Mediator, Negotiator, Educator, Initiator, Empowerer, Coordinator, Researcher, and Group facilitator. These roles align closely with Zastrow's comprehensive categorization of social work roles, emphasizing their pivotal function in providing diverse forms of assistance to elderly beneficiaries [26].

However, it is noted that two roles identified by Zastrow—activist and public speaker—are not actively performed by social workers at STPL Bekasi. The absence of these roles stems from institutional constraints and perceived limitations in authority among social workers, particularly in advocating for broader institutional changes or publicly representing the concerns of the elderly [17].

The study contributes theoretically by extending Zastrow's role typology to the specific context of the ATENSI-LU program. It highlights how social workers adapt and operationalize their roles within the constraints of bureaucratic structures and budgetary limitations, reflecting a nuanced application of social work theory in practice. Empirically, the research provides insights into the operational realities faced by social workers at STPL Bekasi. It illustrates their efforts in facilitating access to resources, advocating for elderly rights, and mediating conflicts, thereby enhancing the empirical understanding of social work practice within the context of elderly care and rehabilitation [3].

Despite the comprehensive role enactment observed, the study highlights several limitations within the ATENSI-LU program at STPL Bekasi:

Social workers encounter challenges in fully optimizing their roles due to the program's emphasis on meeting quantitative targets and administrative priorities. This focus sometimes detracts from the holistic implementation of social work practices, potentially compromising the quality of care provided [4].

Moreover, the interdisciplinary nature of the ATENSI-LU program, which involves various stakeholders such as social workers, social counselors, doctors, nurses, and administrative staff, can lead to inefficiencies and occasionally less professional conduct among service providers. The coordination and collaboration required across different professional backgrounds often pose challenges in maintaining consistent standards of professionalism [6].

Another significant limitation pertains to the understanding of elderly issues among social workers. Not all practitioners possess a deep understanding of the diverse needs of elderly clients, particularly within a center that also serves individuals with sensory disabilities and homeless populations. This lack of specialized knowledge can impact the appropriateness and effectiveness of services provided to elderly beneficiaries [1].

Despite these challenges, the study underscores the overall effectiveness of social workers in the ATENSI-LU program, highlighting areas where improvement is crucial: Firstly, budgetary constraints persist despite perceptions of adequate funding. Gaps remain in fulfilling essential needs such as clothing and specialized medical equipment for elderly beneficiaries, indicating a discrepancy between budget allocations and actual service requirements [22]. Secondly, there is a recognized need for enhanced capacity building among social workers. The complexities inherent in addressing multi-cluster beneficiary issues demand continuous training and development initiatives. Strengthening social workers' competencies can better equip them to navigate diverse client needs and innovate service delivery approaches that are responsive and effective [11].

This research examines the role of social workers within Indonesia's Social Rehabilitation Assistance Program for the Elderly (ATENSI-LU). Social workers play a critical role in ensuring program accessibility, conducting assessments, facilitating service planning, and delivering essential services. The study contributes to our understanding of social work in elderly care programs, particularly within the context of bureaucratic limitations. It highlights the need for social workers to adapt to institutional frameworks while advocating for policy changes and innovative practices within existing structures. By enhancing social worker training and fostering a culture of advocacy, the ATENSI-LU program can be further strengthened to ensure the well-being of Indonesia's elderly population [5].

In conclusion, the ATENSI-LU program at STPL Bekasi plays a crucial role in providing essential services to the elderly, facilitated by the diverse roles enacted by social workers. While the program demonstrates significant achievements, there is a clear imperative to address identified limitations and optimize social work practices to better meet the evolving needs of elderly beneficiaries. The Ministry of Social Affairs is urged to support ongoing capacity building efforts and foster a conducive environment for social workers to excel in their professional roles within the ATENSI-LU program [14].

CONCLUSION

This study significantly advances current understanding of social work practices in elderly care in Indonesia, particularly through its exploration of the ATENSI-LU program at Sentra Terpadu Pangudi Luhur (STPL) Bekasi, West Java. It underscores the importance of culturally sensitive approaches and interdisciplinary collaboration in addressing the needs of Indonesia's aging population. This exploration of social work within the ATENSI-LU program sparks compelling avenues for future research. Here, we propose several directions to deepen understanding and optimize elderly care in Indonesia. Firstly, delving into the specific needs of marginalized elderly populations – those facing poverty, disability, or social isolation – would illuminate tailored interventions that ensure equitable access to quality care. Secondly, a nuanced examination of cultural factors influencing caregiving practices is crucial. Understanding how cultural beliefs, family structures, and community dynamics shape caregiving approaches can inform culturally sensitive interventions. Thirdly, evaluating the effectiveness of innovative intervention strategies holds immense value. Assessing the impact of new approaches on elderly well-being can guide the development of evidence-based practices for future implementation. Furthermore, longitudinal studies tracking the long-term effects of social work interventions offer invaluable insights. Examining how interventions influence elderly well-being over time provides a comprehensive perspective on aging and care dynamics.

Finally, this research lays the foundation for comparative studies across Indonesian regions or internationally. By examining variations in elderly care practices, policy impacts, and cultural adaptations, we can gain a richer understanding of effective practices across diverse contexts. By pursuing these areas of inquiry, we can continue to strengthen social work's role in ensuring the well-being, dignity, and social inclusion of Indonesia's growing elderly population. In conclusion, this study represents a significant advancement in understanding social work practices tailored for elderly care in Indonesia. By integrating global best practices with local realities, it lays the foundation for more effective and culturally sensitive approaches to support Indonesia's expanding elderly population. The insights gained can guide policymaking, elevate practice standards, and inform future research endeavors. Ultimately, these efforts aim to enhance the quality of life for elderly individuals participating in programs such as ATENSI-LU and similar initiatives across developing countries.

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