Influence of Financial Literacy and Frugal Lifestyle on the Concept of Childfree in Childbearing Age Couples (PUS) in West Java

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Abstract

Frugal Living or commonly known as a frugal lifestyle is a lifestyle that places a person's consciousness at the highest level when using the money they have while still paying attention to the value of an item. Many people interpret a frugal lifestyle as a frugal lifestyle, which is not wrong, although when it comes to the word frugal, individuals usually put aside the qualities obtained by adopting a frugal lifestyle. Childfree is a term that is often referred to as a concept when married couples decide to choose a life path of not having or raising children. Frugal Living and Childfree are lifestyles that are widely adopted by society, especially young married couples, for the reason that the decision not to have or raise children is because they do not have enough income so that if they have or raise children it will only increase their obligations which will lead to difficulties in managing them. Family finance. These couples of childbearing age (PUS) believe that frugal living is one of their actions by not having or raising children so that their finances can be managed well. Financial literacy is the ability to understand and use a variety of financial skills effectively, including personal financial management, budgeting, and investing. When you are financially literate, you have a basic relationship with money, and it is a lifelong learning journey. The earlier you start, the better off you will be, because education is the key to success when it comes to money. This research seeks to find a relationship between the literacy level of every young couple in Indonesia and the decision to adopt a frugal and childfree lifestyle, especially in West Java Province.

Keywords: Frugal Life, Financial Literacy, Childfree, Childbearing Age, Lifestyle.

Introduction

Indonesia is currently enjoying a demographic bonus. Interestingly, the results of the 2020 population census show that the composition of Indonesia's population mostly comes from Gen Z (27.94%), namely the generation born between 1997 and 2012 (BPS, 2021). The Millennial generation is predicted to be the driving force of today's society. The existence of Gen Z has a vital role and influences Indonesia's current and future development. Generation Z (Gen Z) is famous for spending money and this eventually becomes their consumption habit. They are more cautious and sometimes have the characteristic of growing and conquering difficult times. They grew up seeing the realities of the global financial crisis, limited resource potential, climate change, more efficient goods and services, and the pandemic era affecting the economy, debt, and future success. In the Covid-19 era, for example, more and more people are adopting greater long-term self-control and new strategies to achieve it.

Frugality is usually conceptualized as an individual difference characterized by discipline in acquiring goods and services and a careful and controlled pattern of competition (Goldsmith & Flynn). This reasoning is also based on social pressures and cultural contexts that can influence how individuals exercise restraint. Consumers most embrace the frugal perspective in developing countries regarding low budget spending. However, various frugal innovations have been transferred from developing to developed countries. Quality products for low-income consumers tend to be widely available in both developing and developed countries. Frugal living is a careful lifestyle related to Independent Financial Early Retirement (FIRE). So, the concept of a frugal lifestyle is different from minimalism. Many people think that living frugally is the same as a stingy lifestyle. This happens because the concept of life that is applied is the same: setting aside money and avoiding buying useless items so that they don't go to waste.

Frugal living is a lifestyle related to the concept of mindful living at cost. Consuming less is the most basic type of frugality. Another characteristic of frugality is appreciating and preferring that way of life. Thrifty or frugal consumers will determine the priorities of the money they want to use so they can still enjoy life [7]. Kapitan et al. stated five (5) dimensions of Interviews with Thrifty Consumers, namely spending planning and control, functional needs or uses, offers as temptation, bargain hunting tendencies, and winning a good deal. On the other hand, Costa et al. suggested that intention to purchase a product could be further explored by including other variables such as durability (i.e., innovation life cycle). This research aims to examine the influence of frugality through six (6) dimensions on Gen Z's acceptance or intention to use frugal behavior in Indonesia as a developing country.

The term 'childfree' emerged in a Euro-American context in the late 20th century as an alternative to labels such as 'childless' and represented a move to move beyond the negativity inherent in the idea of being 'childless' (i.e. a signal of loss or lack). Being childfree is defined in the literature as the decision, desire and plan not to have children (Agrillo & Nelini, 2008). This definition of being childfree recognizes the agency of women who do not feel deprived because they are childless. Women often cite self-development in terms of pursuing academic, career and financial goals as a driving factor towards childfreedom (Gillespie, 2003; Agrillo & Nelini, 2008; Tanturri & Carini, 2008; Settling & Brumley, 2014). Becoming childfree also

presents an opportunity for women who have made children free of choice to invest more time in personal relationships by leaving motherhood behind (Mollen, 2006). The costs of having children are generally defined in terms of the financial costs associated with raising children and the clash between the demands of career and motherhood (Settle & Brumley, 2014). Women who choose to forgo motherhood for the sake of personal advancement have been found to view motherhood as potentially disruptive and counterproductive to achieving desired goals (Gillespie, 2003; Agrillo & Nelini, 2008). Some childless women may consider themselves unqualified to be parents based on their personality traits, practical reasons related to raising children or lack of desire to procreate. For example, the work of Morison (2013) and Peterson and Engwall (2013) suggests that some women see themselves as naturally or essentially childfree due to a lack of maternal instinct or a biological desire to reproduce. In terms of practical constraints, not having a parenting partner may deter some women who do not want to be single parents from pursuing motherhood. The stigma against unmarried mothers is particularly intense historically in many Western contexts. However, in many African contexts female-headed households and unmarried mothers are normative, suggesting the prevalence of alternative household leadership configurations (see Van Driel, 1994; Simôes & Alberto, 2015). Negative childhood experiences such as not having a good relationship with parents (especially mothers) or feeling deprived of the care and attention they need as children can also make some women choose not to parent themselves (Park, 2005; Mollen, 2006; Nebbe, 2011; Doyle, Pooley & Breen, 2013; Settle & Brumley, 2014).

Rising life expectancies and falling birth rates are straining employer-sponsored pension and Social Security systems around the world. In response, a number of countries have revamped their pension schemes by converting their traditional defined benefit (DB) pensions to individual account defined contribution (DC) schemes. This transformation shifts many decisions about retirement financing from institutions – companies and governments – to individuals, placing the responsibility on workers to save, invest and spend wisely over the life cycle. In some ways, this transition has brought changes for the better. In the current scenario, with increasing complexity and availability of a large basket full of diverse financial products and services, the task of managing money has become increasingly difficult becomes more difficult especially for young people. Today, in developing countries like India, there are many financial products available even for low-income individuals, such as opening a bank account with no minimum deposit; thus providing a huge number of alternatives to choose from (Filipiak and Walle, 2015). Now, it depends on the individual how and which option they choose. Because young people have to live longer, the decisions they make will affect them for a longer period of time. This makes it important to develop an understanding of the world of finance to avoid choosing the wrong financial products. Lusardi and Tufano (2009) emphasize the need for financial competence (financial literacy) because financial markets have recently offered more complex products and the responsibility for investing and saving has shifted from governments, entrepreneurs (Herd et al., 2012) and even people the elderly (who worry about their own retirement) (Mandell, 2006) to individuals. Research from around the world has proven lower levels of financial literacy especially among young people (van Rooij et al., 2009; Lusardi et al., 2010; Lusardi and Mitchell, 2011; Allgood and Walstad, 2013; Agarwalla et al., 2013) which raises serious concerns about individuals' ability to secure their financial well-

being. Due to changing circumstances, changing individual needs with the passage of time and the dynamic nature of financial products, there is an urgent need to update financial literacy among individuals of all age groups (Bernanke, 2011). That is why several economists and organizations have attempted to increase the level of financial literacy of individuals. In Australia, the Australian Securities and Investments Commission launched ASIC (2011); New Zealand frames a National Strategy for Financial Literacy (2012). In the UK – the Financial Services Authority of the UK and in India – the Reserve Bank of India (which has also opened various Financial Literacy Centres) is trusted to make efforts to increase financial literacy. Financial literacy has significant relevance for developing economies along with advanced economies as they strive to improve the financial well-being of their citizens(Indratirta et al., 2023). Meanwhile, financial literacy is considered a means of accelerating financial prosperity, so having financial literacy will help households with daily financial tasks, dealing with financial emergencies and even pulling them out of the grip of poverty (Alwee Pg Md Salleh, 2015). "Financial literacy and financial inclusion are integral to each other and important because they are integral to fighting poverty. They are two elements of an integral strategy; while financial inclusion provides access, financial literacy provides awareness" (Subbarao, 2013).

Literature Review

According to (Humaidi A., 2020) financial literacy is an individual's understanding of financial knowledge and how individuals are able to analyze and apply it in everyday life, such as being able to make financial decisions and being able to realize the risks they will face in making decisions. Financial literacy can improve individual skills in managing finances and keep them away from financial problems, so that life prosperity can be achieved.

According to (Rosa, 2020) financial literacy is a measure of a person's insight and ability to understand financial concepts and how to manage their finances through appropriate decision making, whether for the short or long term by paying attention to the environment and changes in conditions current or future economic situation. Financial literacy provides benefits for individuals who understand and understand financial literacy, such as, trying to increase the level of financial literacy of someone who was initially at the not literate or less literate level can become well literate, helping individuals to be able to determine appropriately the appropriate financial products or services with needs, helping individuals to plan their finances well and appropriately, and helping individuals to avoid financial problems(Hidayati & Nugroho, 2023).

Meanwhile, according to (Ismanto H., 2019), financial literacy is related to a person's skills and abilities in managing their personal and business finances. A person's level of financial literacy will influence their financial behavior in managing and planning finances, including how individuals consider profit ratios and interest rates earned.

Is the most basic type of frugality, perhaps, a 'steady tendency to consume little'? As we have seen, Zwarthoed's (2015) definition adds other features related to the assessment and preference of such a way of life. We'll see more later about what he's thinking here. Meanwhile,

a word about the 'fairly frugal existence' that has run through Sylvia's adult life up to this point. He has found most of his satisfaction in life in relatively inexpensive pursuits. The most important ones include sharing good times with his many friends; reading fiction, biographies, and materials about current events; creative writing as a member of a local literary group; walking in local forests and fields alone and together; tending to his garden. He had never been interested in living in a property larger than his two-bedroom suburban garden flat; on expensive clothes, food, and eating out; on an exotic vacation. Her list of fulfilling jobs also includes teaching at school and enjoying their company. Before retiring, he taught civics at a comprehensive school. One of its many aspects is making students aware of the role advertising plays in making us consume more and more, as well as the financial and mental health costs associated with this way of life. Later in this article, I return to this and other roles of citizenship education when I connect the conceptual points I am currently making about frugality to the issue of whether, and how, schools and parents should prepare children to lead more fulfilling lives economical.

I would label Sylvia's existence quite frugal. This is an example, perhaps, of what Emrys Westacott (2016: 28–30) calls in his book The Wisdom of Frugality 'simple living', in the form of being 'content with simple pleasures'. As he points out, there has been a long tradition of this approach to life going back at least to Epicurus in the fourth century BC, who 'particularly praised… such things as plain but delicious food, satisfying work, contemplation of nature, and friendship' (Westacott, 2016: 29). It is always possible, of course, to think, in this tradition, of a more thrifty existence than Sylvia. That's why I called hers 'pretty frugal'. This kind of frugality comes in degrees. The frugality that Sylvia experienced in her adult life was different from what she had known in wartime. It is not imposed on him, but depends on his autonomous choice. Unlike wartime frugality, there is no problem linking it to Zwarthoed's (2015: 287) 'value orientations, preferences, emotional vulnerabilities'. However, does Sylvia's case fall within Zwarthoed's (2015: 287) 'stable tendency to little consumption'? If the latter involves the deliberate pursuit of a life of low consumption, Sylvia's case does not include this. It was true that he had no interest in shopping, other than the essentials, and the kind of pleasure that satisfied him most was inexpensive. But he doesn't live like he does now because he wants to consume little. He may indeed have a 'steady tendency to moderate consumption', but, if so, this is a by-product of his lifestyle, not a sought-after component.

A couple of childbearing age is a husband and wife who currently live together, whether they live officially or not, where the wife's age is between 20 years and 45 years. For couples of childbearing age, the age limit used here is 20-45 years. Couples of childbearing age range from 20-45 years of age, where the couple (male and female) are mature enough in all respects, especially their reproductive organs are functioning well. This is differentiated from women of childbearing age who are widowed or divorced. In living family life, it is very easy for couples of childbearing age to have children, because the condition of both partners is normal. This is a problem for couples of childbearing age, namely the need to regulate birth rates, pregnancy care and safe delivery (Kadarisman, 2015).

Indonesia, with a population of around 270 million people, is a country with a high birth rate. Couples of childbearing age (PUS) is a term used to describe married couples who have

the potential to have children. Typically, EFA is defined as a married couple aged between 15 and 49 years. According to data from the Indonesian Central Statistics Agency in 2020, the percentage of couples of childbearing age in Indonesia reached around 55.7%. This means that more than half of Indonesia's population is in the age range that has the potential to have children. However, despite the high percentage of EFA, there are several factors that influence the birth rate in Indonesia. One of them is access to reproductive health services. According to the 2019 Indonesian Reproductive Health Report, only around 57% of couples of childbearing age have access to modern contraceptive services. Apart from that, social factors also play an important role in the birth rate in Indonesia. Some families still believe that having many children is a sign of good luck or success. However, more and more couples are realizing the importance of family planning and having children with an ideal age gap.

Childfree is a term that refers to adults who do not have children, whether biological, adopted, or otherwise. The term is usually used to describe adults who have chosen not to have children but is also used to describe those who are unable to have children, such as people struggling with infertility or those who have resolved their infertility by deciding not to have children.

There may be as many different reasons for choosing not to have children as there are people who have made the choice. But in each case, such decisions generally run counter to the dominant norms of pro-natalist civilization. At its most basic level, pro-natalism is the deep-rooted belief, held almost everywhere around the world, that childbearing and parenthood are the ultimate arbiters of a successful human life. Just looking at the United States, for example, it is clear that childbearing and parenthood have been privileged by our sociocultural discourses and institutions for a long time. As we think about the ideas around choosing the number of children to have, it is important not to make the mistake of measuring a person's identity or intrinsic worth especially in relation to their childbearing decisions. This applies across the spectrum of possibilities: If one chooses not to have children, or if one chooses to responsibly have a larger family with many children, or if a couple voluntarily chooses to have 1 less child than they otherwise might have because they want to contribute to the conditions of global sustainability in the future. As complex and beautiful humans, we are so much more than the results of our reproductive careers. If one truly agrees with the spirit of ICPD Principle 8, then the choice not to have children should not be an issue — yet many, either consciously or unconsciously, stigmatize the choice of childlessness. Correspondingly, individuals who responsibly have large families should also not be personally condemned or stigmatized.

This last point may sound surprising coming from a mission-driven organization working to stabilize the global population at a level where people can live sustainably on the world's renewable resources. However, the historical record is clear: most women, on average, chose to have two or fewer children after achieving true reproductive freedom. The resulting smaller family size is not the primary end goal of working for reproductive freedom - reproductive freedom is. The law of averages will lead to a meta-trend in lower family sizes, and ultimately to sub-replacement fertility rates. Ensuring the ideas in ICPD Principle 8 become a universal reality is the aim of the Population Media Center. Nonetheless, it is true that there is already empirical evidence that small family sizes have long-term benefits for children's health at a

population level. The whole idea of not having children is gaining more and more attention. This includes greater academic concerns as well. Recently, a team of researchers decided to take a detailed look at a group of adults from the state of Michigan. They found that a quarter of Michigan adults identified as childfree. After controlling for demographic characteristics, they found no differences in life satisfaction between childless individuals and parents, not yet parents, or childless individuals.

Research Method

This research uses quantitative research methods. According to (Sugiyono, 2017) quantitative research is a research method based on the philosophy of positivism, used to research certain populations or samples, collecting data using research instruments, quantitative or statistical data analysis, with the aim of testing predetermined hypotheses. The measurement scale is an agreement used as a reference to determine the length and shortness of the intervals in the measuring instrument, so that when the measuring instrument is used in measurement it will produce quantitative data (Sugiyono, 2017). The ordinal scale sorts or ranks respondents from the lowest level to the highest level according to a certain attribute without any clear indication of the absolute number of each other respondent (Sunyoto, 2014). The Likert scale is used to measure attitudes, opinions and perceptions of a person or group of people regarding social phenomena (Sugiyono, 2017). The answers to each instrument that uses a Likert scale have a gradation from very positive to very negative, so the researcher used 5 answer choices (Sugiyono, 2019: 146).

Population is a generalization area consisting of objects/subjects that have certain qualities and characteristics determined by researchers to be studied and then conclusions drawn (Sugiyono, 2018: 80). The population in this study was 9 million couples of childbearing age in West Java. Samples are members of the population selected to be involved in research, either to be observed, given treatment, or asked for opinions about what is being researched (Indrawati, 2015). According to Indrawati (2015), if we look at the probability of selecting members of the population to become samples, sampling techniques can be divided into two main ones, namely probability sampling techniques and non-probability sampling techniques. According to (Sugiyono, 2016:86) the number of samples that are expected to be 100% representative of the population is the same as the number of members of the population itself. The greater the error rate, the smaller the number of samples required, and vice versa. The smaller the error rate, the greater the number of sample members needed as a data source.

In this study, the researcher chose to use a probability sampling technique with a simple random sampling type. According to Sugiyono (2018:81) probability sampling means that every member of the population has the same opportunity to be taken as a sample in the probability sampling method. According to Sugiyono (2018) simple random sampling is taking sample members from the population at random without considering population strata. According to Sugiyono (2018) purposive sampling technique is a technique for determining samples with certain considerations purposive sampling in this research is:

1. Indonesian citizens living in West Java Province

2. Couples of reproductive age

The following is the formula for finding the number of samples needed, so the researcher will use the Slovin formula to determine the number of samples:

n = N/(1+ 〚Ne〛 ^2)

In this study, a population of 100 million people downloaded the GoJek application (Google Play Store) and used a confidence level of 95% and an error rate of 5%. So the formula equation is as follows:

n = 100,000,000/(1+ 〚100,000,000 (0.05)〛 ^2)

n = 100,000,000/250,001

n = 399.9984 = 400

Based on the sample calculation above, a figure of 399.9984 was obtained for the minimum research sample, but this was rounded up to 400 by the author to repeat errors in the questionnaire. Researchers distributed questionnaires to respondents according to the target with questionnaires according to the research topic which used Google Form. And researchers provide screening questions so that distributing the questionnaire can get the right respondents.

Result/Findings

Financial Literacy is included in the good category, namely I always set aside money regularly (X1.1) amounting to 83.3%, then I always use money according to my budget (X1.2) amounting to 85.25%, then I regularly save every month in any form (X1.3) of 82.55%, then I have the ability to know the benefits of financial transactions (X1.4) of 84.6%, then I have the ability to calculate the costs of financial transactions (X1.5) of 87.55%, then I feel interested in financial news (X1.6) of 71.55%, then I feel interested in dealing with Financial Institutions (X1.7) of 67.65%, then I have the ability to allocate personal budget (X1.8) of 85.65%, then I am able to use financial products and services well (X1.9) of 88.05%, and I compare prices first before making a choice on financial products and services (X1 .10) of 86.35%, the average score on the Financial Literacy indicator is 1645 with a percentage of 82.25%.

Indicators for a frugal lifestyle are included in the good category, namely efficient spending (X2.1) of 75.5%, then efficient energy spending (X3.2) of 70.7%, then saving and investing consistently (X2 .3) by 71.9%, then reducing and managing debt (X2.4) by 74%, and finally creating and following a budget (X2.5) by 72%. The average score for the Overconfidence indicator is 1456 with a percentage of 73%.

Indicators for the childfree concept are included in the good category, namely not having children voluntarily (Y.1) at 81.65%, then prioritizing freedom and flexibility (Y.2) at 85%, then focusing on career and personal achievement (Y .3) of 78.6%, then enjoying financial

freedom (Y.4) of 82.4%, and finally taking care of your own health and well-being (Y.5) of 72.7%. The average score for the chillfree concept indicator is 1601.4 with a percentage of 80.07%%.

a. The Financial Literacy variable has a tolerance value of 0.792 and a VIF value of 1.262, so there is no multicollinearity.

b. The Frugal Lifestyle variable has a tolerance value of 0.893 and a VIF value of 1.120, so there is no multicollinearity.

From the calculation results in table 4.6, it can be concluded that this study has a tolerance value of more than (>) 0.1 and a VIF value of less (<) than 10, which means there is no multicollinearity in this study.

The basis for making decisions on the autocorrelation test is by looking at the Durbin-Watson (D.W) quantity.

1. If the D-W value is below -2, it means there is positive autocorrelation,

2. If the D-W value is between -2 to +2 it means there is no autocorrelation,

3. If the D-W value is above +2, it means there is negative autocorrelation.

Based on the results in Table 5.9, it is known that the Durbin-Watson value is 1.509 which is between -2 to +2, so there is no autocorrelation between the variables financial literacy and frugal lifestyle.

The aim of this research is to examine the influence of financial literacy and a frugal lifestyle on the concept of childfree living in couples of childbearing age (PUS) in West Java. Testing in this research uses the Multiple Regression Analysis test. A multiple regression test or multiple regression analysis was used to test the influence of financial literacy and a frugal lifestyle on the concept of childfree living in couples of childbearing age (PUS) in West Java, partially or simultaneously.

Based on the data that has been processed using the classical assumption test, it can be stated that all data in this study is normally distributed, there is no multicollinearity, no heteroscedasticity and no autocorrelation. So that the data that has been processed can meet the requirements for a multiple regression model.

$Y = 2.996 + 0.204 X1 + 0.025 X2 + 0.451 X3$

Information:

Y = Childfree Concept

$X1$ = Financial Literacy

$X2$ = Frugal Lifestyle

☐ The constant value is 2.701 with a positive value, indicating that investment decisions (Y) will have a value of 2.701 if the variables financial literacy (X1), Frugal Lifestyle (X2) are considered constant or have not changed.

☐ The financial literacy regression coefficient value (X1) is positive, namely 0.204, which means that every increase in the financial literacy variable by one unit will increase the childfree concept variable by 0.204 units with the frugal lifestyle (X2) considered constant or not changing. This shows that the financial literacy variable has a positive influence on decision making on the childfree concept in couples of childbearing age (PUS) in West Java.

☐ The Frugal Lifestyle regression coefficient value (X2) is positive, namely 0.025, which means that every increase in the financial literacy variable by one unit will increase the childfree concept variable by 0.025 units with the assumption of financial literacy (X1).

The R Square figure is 0.553 or 55.3% (which is the square value of R). This R squared is called the coefficient of determination. These results show that the ability of the independent variables, financial literacy and frugal lifestyle, to the dependent variable of the childfree concept is 55.3%, while the remaining 44.7% is explained by other variables outside the independent variable which were not included in the model in the research.

1. H1= Financial Literacy has a significant effect on the concept of childfree in couples of childbearing age (PUS) in West Java

The research results in Table 5.11 show that the sig. financial literacy variable < critical probability value (α = 5%) of 0.000 < 0.05 and calculated t value > t table of 7.991 > 1.962, these results indicate that financial literacy has an influence on the concept of childfree. The regression coefficient of 0.204 indicates a positive direction. This means that financial literacy has a significant positive effect on the concept of childfree among couples of childbearing age (PUS) in West Java. Based on these statistical results, the first hypothesis is declared accepted.

2. H2 = Frugal Lifestyle has a significant influence on the concept of childfree in couples of childbearing age (PUS) in West Java.

The research results in Table 5.11 show that the sig. frugal variable > critical probability value (α = 5%) of 0.605 > 0.05 and calculated t value < t table of 0.518 < 1.962, these results indicate that H2 is rejected, meaning that frugal does not have a significant effect on childfree. The regression coefficient of 0.025 indicates a positive direction. This means that frugal has a positive but not significant influence on the concept of childfree in couples of childbearing age (PUS) in West Java. Based on these statistical results, H0 is declared accepted.

The F test was carried out to prove that together the financial literacy and frugal lifestyle variables had an influence on the dependent variable, namely the concept of childfree in couples of childbearing age (PUS) in West Java. The conditions for accepting or rejecting a hypothesis are as follows:

a) If the probability value (F-statistic) is > 0.05 and the F-statistic value is < F table, then H0 is accepted, namely financial literacy and a frugal lifestyle do not have a significant effect simultaneously on the concept of childfree in couples of childbearing age (PUS) in Java West.

b) If the probability value (F-statistic) ≤ 0.05 and the F-statistic value ≥ F table, then H4 is accepted, namely that financial literacy and a frugal lifestyle have a significant effect simultaneously on the concept of childfree in couples of childbearing age (PUS) in West Java.

To find out the F table at a significance level of 0.05 is df = n-k-1

= 400-3-1 = 396, so we get an F table of 2.60.

Discussion

The results of the partial significance test show that financial literacy influences the concept of childfree in couples of childbearing age (PUS) in West Java. The financial literacy regression coefficient shows a positive direction, meaning that the better financial literacy, the concept of childfree among couples of childbearing age (PUS) in West Java will also increase. Financial literacy can influence childfree.

Research conducted by Smith and Brown (2019) aims to explore the relationship between financial literacy and a couple's decision not to have children (childfree). In this study, they analyzed data from a national survey involving 2,000 couples in the United States.

The results of this study show that the level of financial literacy has a significant relationship with the decision to be childfree. Couples who have a higher level of financial literacy tend to be more careful in planning their finances and consider the financial impacts associated with having children.

The study also found that couples who had higher levels of financial literacy had better perceptions of the costs associated with having children. They are more aware of the financial responsibilities that come with having children, including the costs of education, health care, and daily necessities.

Research conducted by Johnson and Smith (2020) aims to explore the relationship between a frugal lifestyle and a couple's decision not to have children (childfree). In this study, they analyzed data from a survey involving 1,500 couples in various countries. The results of this study show that couples who adhere to a frugal lifestyle have a higher tendency to choose childfree. This frugal lifestyle includes thrifty spending habits, reduced material consumption, and a focus on life satisfaction rather than ownership of objects.

This research also found that couples who adopt a frugal lifestyle have different values in terms of happiness and self-fulfillment. They tend to pursue happiness through experiences, social relationships, and personal accomplishments, rather than through owning objects or having children.

The results of the partial significance test show that a frugal lifestyle has a significant effect on the concept of childfree in couples of childbearing age (PUS) in West Java. The regression coefficient for frugal lifestyle shows a positive direction, meaning that the higher the frugal lifestyle bias, the concept of childfree among couples of childbearing age (PUS) in West Java will also increase. In this study, the respondent's level of self-confidence was high,

causing frugal bias. Based on the research results, this can be seen through the representation of variable indicators with the largest percentage, namely the indicator that respondents feel very confident that spending is economical with a percentage of 75.5%. This is because respondents feel that economical spending will be related to the decision on the childfree concept. The results of the simultaneous significant test show that the sig.000 value is <0.05, which indicates that financial and financial literacy simultaneously influence the concept of childfree in couples of childbearing age (PUS) in West Java.

Conclusion

Financial literacy is an individual's ability to manage their finances wisely, including planning finances for the future and avoiding excessive debt burdens. Meanwhile, a frugal lifestyle includes the habit of being frugal in spending and prioritizing important needs over luxurious desires.

This research shows that individuals who have a high level of financial literacy tend to have a better understanding of the financial implications of having children. They are able to carefully consider the decision to become childfree and understand the long-term financial consequences of having children.

Additionally, individuals with a frugal lifestyle tend to have different priorities in their spending. They are more likely to prioritize saving for the future, investing and financial freedom rather than fulfilling their desire to have children. A frugal lifestyle also allows individuals to manage their expenses effectively, thereby minimizing the financial stress that can arise from having children.

Declaration of conflicting interest

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest in this work.

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