



Process of Identifying One's Life Calling At an Early Stage within the Youth Community of Gideon Cilegon Banten

Rajiman Andrianus Sirait

Sekolah Tinggi Teologi Kadesi Bogor, Indonesia

rajimanandrianussirait@gmail.com

Abstrak

Identifikasi tujuan hidup seseorang adalah upaya signifikan yang berkontribusi pada pengembangan rasa diri dan lintasan hidup individu. Individu-individu tertentu memiliki kapasitas untuk memastikan tujuan hidup mereka sejak tahun-tahun formatif mereka, sehingga memberi mereka keuntungan tersendiri dalam menumbuhkan panggilan yang mengisi hidup mereka dengan signifikansi dan kepuasan pribadi. Artikel ini mengkaji signifikansi dan konsekuensi dari identifikasi awal tujuan hidup seseorang, dengan penekanan khusus pada berbagai komponen yang berkontribusi pada proses ini, sebagaimana dieksplorasi melalui kolaborasi dengan komunitas Youth Gideon. Sebagai bagian dari pelaksanaan penelitian ini, pemeriksaan menyeluruh terhadap literatur yang ada dilakukan untuk menilai temuan penelitian sebelumnya dan mendapatkan pemahaman yang komprehensif tentang materi pelajaran. Temuan dari tinjauan penelitian ini menunjukkan beberapa elemen yang mengarah pada identifikasi awal panggilan hidup. Aspek-aspek tersebut meliputi pengaruh keluarga, latar belakang pendidikan, minat pribadi, dan pengalaman hidup. Selanjutnya, makalah ini mengkaji konsekuensi identifikasi awal tujuan hidup pada pertumbuhan pribadi dan menawarkan saran bagi pendidik, peneliti, dan profesional untuk memfasilitasi eksplorasi dan penemuan panggilan hidup di kalangan individu muda.

Kata Kunci: *Panggilan Hidup; Usia Muda; Penemuan Diri; Identitas, Pendidikan; Pengalaman hidup; Anak muda.*

Abstract

The identification of one's life purpose is a significant undertaking that contributes to the development of an individual's sense of self and life trajectory. Certain individuals possess the capacity to ascertain their life's purpose from their formative years, thereby affording them a distinct advantage in cultivating vocations that imbue their lives with significance and personal gratification. This article examines the significance and consequences of early

identification of one's life purpose, with a specific emphasis on the various components that contribute to this process, as explored through collaboration with the Youth Gideon community. As part of conducting this study, a thorough examination of existing literature is undertaken to assess the findings of prior research and get a comprehensive comprehension of the subject matter. The findings of this research review indicate several elements that have led to the early identification of life calling. These aspects encompass familial influences, educational background, personal interests, and life experiences. Furthermore, this paper examines the ramifications of early identification of life purpose on personal growth and offers suggestions for educators, researchers, and professionals to facilitate the exploration and discovery of life calling among young individuals.

Keywords: Life Vocation; Young Age; Self-Discovery; Identity, Education; Life Experience; Youth.

Introduction

The concept of the calling to life pertains to an individual's subjective comprehension of the purpose and significance of existence. The identification of life's purpose plays a pivotal role in directing individuals into jobs that are purposeful and satisfying. Certain individuals possess the ability to identify their life's purpose at an early stage, thereby gaining a competitive edge in channeling their endeavors into domains that align with their own interests and aptitudes (Waterman, 1990). Gaining insight into the nature of adolescents holds significant importance, particularly in the contemporary era marked by the prevalence of digital technology, when youngsters encounter a globalized society facilitated by instantaneous and dynamic computer-based advancements. During their formative years, contemporary adolescents have emerged as a cohort of technologists who heavily rely on computer and internet technologies. The act of swiftly assimilating vast amounts of information is no longer considered humiliating. Adolescence is a developmental phase that serves as a bridge between childhood and adulthood, commencing at the onset of sexual maturation, often occurring between the ages of 11 or 12 to 20 years (Soetjningsih, 2004, p. 45). According to Hall's scholarly publication on the veracity of adolescence, he posited that this developmental stage is characterized by upheaval, discord, and emotional fluctuations, wherein cognitive processes, affective experiences, and behavioral tendencies oscillate between hubris and modesty, virtue and allure, as well as elation and desolation. In contemporary youth development, the family, religious community, school, and other social institutions play a crucial role. This is due to the fact that the formation and growth of one's self-concept are influenced by various factors, including environmental experiences, external evaluations, personal traits, and individual conduct.

The younger generation embodies a distinct set of qualities in their attitude to reality. Adolescents and young individuals seek acceptance and recognition for their genuine selves. Each phase of adolescence is characterized by a certain developmental task that individuals must navigate. When an individual is unable to successfully complete the necessary

developmental activities at the appropriate chronological age, it can lead to disruptions in subsequent stages of development, subsequently resulting in personal challenges.

Numerous individuals in their youth exhibit a preexisting inclination to align their lives with the intended objectives of their existence. However, it is important to note that a significant portion of individuals are unaware of the necessity for one's existence to align harmoniously with its divine originator. What is the reason for this phenomenon? The determination of an individual's community and socialization patterns can be influenced by their upbringing. According to Santrock (year), friendship holds significant influence over the cognitive development and value system of adolescents, while also exerting an impact on their moral and spiritual welfare. Additionally, he asserts that friendship encompasses six distinct functions: serving as a companion, providing motivation, offering physical assistance, providing emotional support, facilitating social comparison, and fostering affinity or attachment. When examining this problem, it is important for individuals to comprehend the goal of their existence (Santrock, 2002, p. 8). This predicament particularly perplexes numerous individuals in this demographic, particularly young acquaintances, who experience a sense of bewilderment due to their perceived lack of enthusiasm or fervor towards a specific subject. Upon the arrival of researchers, it becomes evident that this community is experiencing a profound crisis, characterized by a prevailing lack of comprehension among the younger population regarding the meaning and significance of their existence. The absence of effective contact between communities and the rapid progress of technology has exerted a significant impact on them, since the younger generation is readily absorbing the content presented on social media platforms. Similar to Instagram, Facebook also serves as a platform for YouTube. Individuals aspire to embody the ideals portrayed in the media, although they often neglect to critically evaluate the potential positive or negative implications of such aspirations. The individuals in question lack an understanding of the process involved in realizing one's aspirations, and exhibit a greater inclination towards prioritizing worldly matters above matters of a spiritual nature.

Based on the aforementioned information, Chief Youth Gideon asserts that a consensus is important for the present cohort of young individuals. The Gideon Youth Community consists of a total of 20 individuals, of whom only 12 actively adhere to its principles and beliefs. The majority of individuals within this group are now enrolled as students, but a portion have already entered the workforce.

Based on the aforementioned description, it can be objectively observed that the community continues to function. However, it is evident that the rate of spiritual development among the youth is not uniform. The absence of effective communication in the aftermath of the Covid-19 outbreak also had an impact. Even the scheduled rehearsals do not proceed smoothly. When individuals are monitored, they are beginning to have a sense of ease and contentment in their personal circumstances, particularly those who have recently secured employment. Subsequently, there were a subset of individuals who first displayed fervent enthusiasm. However, their emotional state gradually diminished in response to the repercussions of a pandemic that depleted their resources and vitality. Additionally, they found themselves inundated by the captivating allure of social media, rendering them unable

of effectively discerning and managing its content. The impact of individuals on their immediate environment and communities is diminishing.

The expectation is that this discernment will serve as a starting mechanism for facilitating conversation for the individuals in question. In addition to reconstructing one's inner essence to establish the bedrock of their spiritual beliefs, individuals also seek to comprehend the fundamental meaning and significance of their existence.

Method

The dedication activity comprises three distinct steps, with the initial phase involving the exploration of data sources pertaining to the Gideon Youth Community. According to (Moleong, 2006, p. 108), data sources can be categorized into three types: individuals, locations, and written documents.

In the aforementioned study, the researchers initiated the initial phase by conducting an interview with the leader of Youth Gideon. The objective of this approach is to obtain a comprehensive understanding of the Gideon Youth Community. In employing this approach, researchers engage in direct inquiry by utilizing research instruments as a framework for posing questions pertaining to the subject matter (Bungin, 2001). These questions aim to gather data regarding the community's current progress and the challenges it encounters. The interview method can be defined as a systematic approach employed to gather data for the goal of research (Sirait, 2021).

During the second phase, researchers utilize Google Meet to monitor their event activities, enabling them to observe the participants' engagement and their subsequent responses to the event. Researchers acquire knowledge about behavior and its significance through the process of observation, as Marshall (year) cited (Sugiyono, 2019, p. 310) as stating. The participation of researchers plays a crucial role in the process of data collection. Researchers have the ability to restrict the extent to which their presence and actions disrupt the milieu in which they are conducting their study.

- a. Mitigate the influence of biases in research.
- b. Mitigate the impact of atypical occurrences or transient factors.

In this particular instance, the researchers intend to conduct meticulous and comprehensive observations in a continuous manner, focusing on the salient elements. Subsequently, the researchers conducted a comprehensive evaluation of the subject matter, reaching a level of scrutiny where, during the preliminary stage of analysis, one or more of the components under investigation seemed to have been comprehended in a conventional manner. Upon completion of these two processes, the researchers may proceed to compare the observational data with the interview data.

- 1) Conduct a comparative analysis between individuals' public discourse and their private conversations.
- 2) The researcher's exhibit enhanced proficiency in formulating materials with a specific focus.

During the third phase, researchers facilitate and coordinate virtual awareness-raising activities for the Gideon Youth Community through the utilization of Zoom meetings. The decision to opt for Zoom meetings as a hosting platform is justified due to the ongoing pandemic circumstances and the persistent classification of the region as a red zone.

Objective

The researchers anticipate that this finding will enable the younger generations to get insight into their authentic purpose and facilitate the exploration of latent passions. The researchers are also motivated to facilitate the growth and advancement of this community.

Results and Consequences

This event may accommodate a maximum of 12 participants, and via this activity, researchers have observed the following insights: 1. The prioritization of one's life by young individuals is not unfounded. 2. Young people have the potential to acquire strategies or resolutions for discovering their life passions from an early stage. 3. Participation in this event fosters an increased understanding of the life's purpose among the attendees. Individuals get an increased consciousness regarding the significance of participating in communal activities and engaging in the act of sharing.

In addition, the researchers ensured that the documentation of this activity was disseminated on their YouTube channel, "Homie Production," which they own. This strategic decision aimed to extend the benefits of this initiative beyond the immediate neighborhood. From this engagement, the communities are displaying renewed vitality in their efforts to provide support for individuals who are transitioning away from their respective areas.

Result and Discussion

1. Determinant Factors commonly observed

This research analysis elucidates several elements that contributed to the identification of life's calling at an early stage. Several factors are involved in this context.

- a. Influence of the Family: The family exerts a significant impact on the individual's perception of life's purpose and offers crucial emotional support. The presence of a nurturing familial atmosphere, effective interpersonal communication, and a proactive inclination towards exploring personal interests and abilities are significant determinants in the early discovery of life's purpose (Damon, 2008).

- b. Education: The implementation of an educational system that effectively supports the discovery of interests and talents, while offering comprehensive career guidance, can greatly assist young individuals in discovering their true vocation in life (Marques & Coimbra, 2011). Educational programs that facilitate exposure to a wide range of disciplines and hands-on learning experiences afford learners the chance to investigate and discern their personal areas of interest (Super, 1990).
- c. Personal interest: An individual's inclination towards a specific field or topic might serve as a valuable indicator in the pursuit of one's life purpose. The alignment of personal interests with individual expertise and ideals can serve as a significant catalyst for the advancement of one's career (Waterman, 1990).
- d. Impact of Life Experiences: Profound personal life experiences, encompassing both failures and triumphs, as well as other invaluable encounters, possess the capacity to shape an individual's self-perception and facilitate the discovery of their life's purpose (Wray-Lake et al., 2010).

2. Locating a Live Call: An Instructional Manual for Adolescents

The exploration of one's life purpose is a pivotal phase in the formation of an individual's identity and life trajectory. The identification of one's life vocation holds significant value, particularly among the younger demographic, as it serves as a fundamental pillar in the establishment of a meaningful and personally fulfilling professional trajectory. In order to assist young individuals, there exist practical measures and guidance that can be pursued to discern their vocational purpose. An essential preliminary measure is developing a profound comprehension of the notion and significance of the existential purpose (Damon, 2008). The progression of exploring interests and skills advances to a subsequent phase through the process of defining personal interests and engaging in the study of specific areas of interest. According to (Holland, 1997). Subsequently, an introspective process ensues, when individuals engage in self-analysis to comprehend their own values, interests, and aptitudes, and ascertain their applicability inside the realm of professional pursuits. (Super, 1990) is a reference to a source. When engaging in the process of selection and decision-making, it is imperative for young individuals to cultivate effective exploration skills and carefully evaluate the educational and training requirements that align with their specific area of interest. According to (Letcher & Housel, 2015), It is noteworthy to acknowledge the significance of receiving assistance from family, teachers, and mentors in the process of discovering one's life purpose (Duffy et al., 2018). It is imperative for individuals throughout their youth to possess an understanding of the significance associated with confronting the obstacles and transformations that may manifest during the pursuit of discovering their ultimate purpose in life (Damon, 2008). In summary, the process of discovering one's life vocation is a fluid and progressive endeavor, serving as a foundation for young individuals to embark on purposeful and gratifying professional paths throughout their lifetimes.

a. Exploring Interests and Talents

The process of exploring one's interests and talents holds significant importance in the identification of an individual's life vocation. According to (Holland, 1997) study, there exists a correlation between individual interests and their subsequent professional decisions. Holland's research yielded the identification of six distinct personality types, each of which corresponds to specific work situations that are deemed favorable for individuals exhibiting these respective types. The book "Career Development and Services: A Cognitive Approach" by (Sampson et al., 2004) similarly places significant emphasis on the investigation of interests and talents. The significance of an individual's cognitive comprehension of their interests and talents in relation to making good career decisions was elucidated by the authors. Moreover, according to (Forsyth, 2012), the process of discovering and developing one's interests and abilities can be facilitated by engaging in social interactions inside group settings or social surroundings. (Dawis & Lofquist, 1984) underscored the significance of investigating interests and talents in attaining an ideal job fit between the individual and the intended occupation. In a study conducted by (Ginevra et al., 2018) it was found that the process of exploring interests and talents during adolescence is subject to various influences, including anxiety, personality traits, and parental support.

b. Self-Reflection and Personal Values

After exploring interests and talents, young people need to engage in deep self-reflection. (Super, 1990) emphasized the importance of a clear understanding of personal values and motivations in defining the vocation of life. Young people need to reflect on what they really care about and what they think is important in their lives. It can involve thinking about how they want to contribute to the world, social justice, or build a better community. Understanding core values and personal motivation will help young people choose careers that are consistent with their life goals.

c. Election and Decision Making

After exploring interests, talents, and self-reflection, young people need to choose and make decisions about the career path they want to follow. (Letcher & Housel, 2015) stressed the importance of exploring different fields of work that meet the interests and talents of young people. It can involve taking an internship, working as a volunteer, or conducting interviews with professionals in a field of interest. Young people also need to consider the educational and training needs required in the field of employment they are interested in. Gathering accurate information about the requirements and career development in this field will help them make better decisions.

d. Support and Resources

In finding life's calling, the support of family, teachers, and mentors is also an important factor. Duffy, Autin, and Sedlacek (2018) highlighted the need to get emotional, informational, and instrumental support from the people around us. Family and close friends can provide valuable moral encouragement, advice, and guidance in this process. In addition to social support, young people also need access to relevant resources such as literature,

websites, or career guidance programs that can help them develop an understanding of the range of career options available.

e. Change and Challenge Navigation

Through the journey to find the vocation of life, young people will face the changes and challenges that may arise. Damon (2008) emphasized the importance of flexibility in the face of career changes or adjustments that may be needed over time. Sometimes, early exploration can help them discover new things that interest them or open up new opportunities that they did not anticipate before. Facing challenges and failures as part of the process of self-discovery will help young people grow and thrive.

Based on the above, on the day of the activity, the researchers encouraged the material and also invited the audience for dialogue. In the material that researchers sharekan researchers say the passion is actually awakened by meaning, or meaning, not that driven by personal gains, such as money, popularity and so on. Passion driven by meaning happens when our skills clap with the needs of society and are connected emotionally through the values and beliefs that we have. That's what gives rise to a powerful passion! Speaking of the vocation of life, not apart from the name talent. Everyone is born with different talents. The talents God gives you are often closely related to your life's calling. A person born with a singing talent can be his life's calling not far from the world of vocal attraction. But rarely every one of us looks at the side of the road or the life experience we're going through. But the way of life, that is, history, the experience that we experience, is a powerful clue in finding our life's calling. What we've been through since we were born to this moment where we are actually opens up new opportunities in things that we didn't think of before, but it can also shut the door to the fields that we have been chasing all this time.

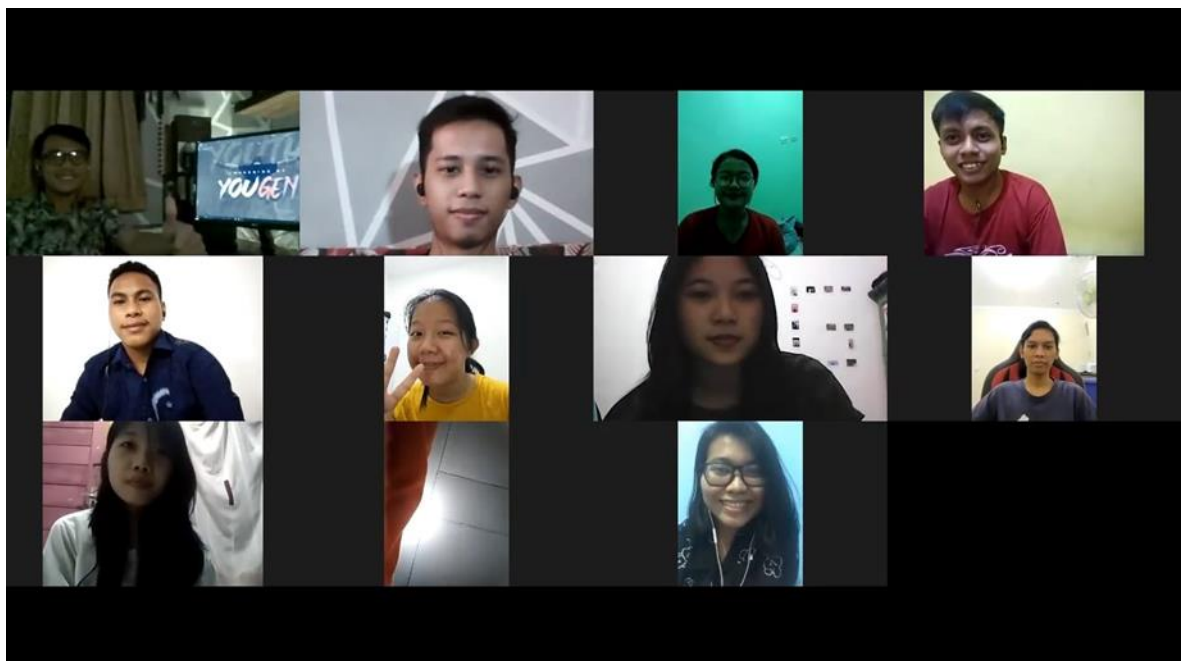


Image 1st: Zoom Meeting with Youth Gideon

As for some of the steps that the researchers spoke in the event,

1. Change in the renewal of the mind

The key to knowing what our calling is and what God wants in our lives is to change in our renewal of mind. We can't live to the fullest of all the talents God has given us if we don't change first.

2. "Don't think higher than you should think."

The thought mentioned here means thinking about things outside of us. We sometimes think we're super-humans capable of everything, but we can't do everything. If we are proud of ourselves and say that we are brilliant in everything. It's so bad because the message we get is that we don't need God. Must be humble and keep learning.

3. Think with Wisdom

It's important for us to know ourselves before we figure out which career is right for us. We need to think about what's our advantage and our disadvantage. It's an active move, not something we just feel. Often we have the talent to do something, but actually we're not interested in doing it. For example, there was a child who was so clever playing the piano because his parents forced him to practice continuously, but he himself didn't like it. We must know there are some examples around us where our friends are very good at doing something, but they don't really like doing it. So find something we're interested in and have the ability to do it.

4. Do it with faith

When God calls us to do something, He gives us faith to do it, It's important! Because all the points above won't make any sense if we forget God. When God puts us in a field, He will enable us to do it. He gives us faith to entrust ourselves to Him in the journey of our lives. Each of us has our own portions and positions. It is God's plan in our lives and also in human lives. When we are given the talent and the desire to work wholeheartedly, it means we make this world a better place.

Of all the exposures above, the researchers close with one wise quote that says that "bad associations spoil good habits." If we want to have a good life then get along with the good too. That brings you closer to God and drives you towards success, not the other way around.

From the material the researchers shared there was an interesting dialogue. From the dialogue there are two interesting points that the audience shared;

1. There are some of them who have already found and found their life purpose from the process of their life experience, then they share as well while the event is ongoing.
2. Someone asks how to make sure that it's their passion and how to pursue their passion when they're sometimes in trouble with financial circumstances too? When referring to

previous material exposure, the researchers say that the passion must have value for himself and also for others as well. Then what if, in a financial shock, a researcher gives a solution like the point that the researcher has emphasized that everything has to be considered and that it is more likely for him to it while achieving his other goal. The researchers are reminded to also be grateful and see that everything God permits will bring good.



Image 2nd: Presentation Activity

Conclusion

Finding the call of life is a continuous and complex process in one's life. In this process, exploration of interests and talents, self-reflection, selection and decision-making, as well as support from the closest people and relevant resources play an important role. Young people need to engage actively and continuously in exploration and self-understanding in order to find meaningful and fulfilling careers. With proper involvement and willingness to face challenges, young people can personal satisfaction and sustained development in their lives.

The young people are people who are so thirsty for attention, and they are so eager to be seen in their way of thinking. Everything they see can be their benchmark to be what they want. The important role of the family, the environment of friendship or the community is decisive. If they don't get that much attention, they're gonna disappear. The way to get closer to those researchers get is by entering their world, listening to them and being an example to them. From this we are much easier to attract and direct them.

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