

PROPOSING QUALITY OF LIFE MODEL AMONG FLOOD VICTIMS AT THE EAST COAST REGION OF MALAYSIA

¹NIKFAKRULHAZRINIK HASSAN, ²ZURIYATI AHMAD, ³AZEMICHE HAMID, ⁴BAHAROM
ABDUL RAHMAN, ⁵NURUL SYUHADA BAHARUDDIN, ⁶ZURAI DA MOHAMAD

^{1,2,3,4,5,6}Faculty of Business and Management, Universiti Teknologi MARA Terengganu Malaysia
E-mail: ¹nikfa480@tganu.uitm.edu.my, ²zuriy271@tganu.uitm.edu.my, ³azemice@tganu.uitm.edu.my,
⁴baharoma@tganu.uitm.edu.my, ⁵nurul574@tganu.uitm.edu.my, ⁶zurai5312@tganu.uitm.edu.my

Abstract - The analysis from previous studies found that the low of quality of life (QoL) in the Temporary Transfer Center (TFTC) cause of lack of facilities provided and facing with a lot of management issues including exposing to dangerous diseases cause by water pollution during flood event. Normally, number of studies show that research regarding to QoL more focusing on four major domains, namely physical health, mental health, social support and environment. In order to improve flood victims living condition at TFTC, this research attention to proposing spirituality into QoL model. By using IBM SPSS AMOS, the results indicates that proposing QoL Model among Flood Victims at TFTC consist with physical health, mental health, social support, and environment and together with spirituality was proven in good fit. This study was using Confirmatory Factor Analysis (CFA), CFI, TLI, and RMSEA values in order to confirm the model in good fit. According to CFA, only 4 items spirituality elements remain and focusing on inner spirituality such as believing on fate, flood disaster as a test in their life, and believe there wisdom behind what happens.

Keywords - Quality of life, temporary flood transfer center, flood victims, confirmatory factor analysis, spirituality, environment, mental health, social support, & physical health.

I. INTRODUCTION AND ISSUES

Based on memo release by [8] and study done by [15], heavy raining season for every the end of the year always brought an expected flood events at East Coast of Peninsular Malaysia. These heavy rain and an expected flood events has given negatives impact to every single elements in the human life especially to flood victims at TFTC. Results of previous studies found that the low of quality of life (QoL) among flood victims because of evacuation conflicts exist due to inadequate food, misunderstanding among fellow victims and TFTCs congested with infrastructure and equipment that are not suitable and insufficient [7].

Thus, flood victims are also exposing with deathly diseases cause of water pollution [1]. Besides that, flood victims also facing with invasion of personal space and privacy issues lead to stress, worry, and aggression condition [9]. The previous studies about QoL normally narrow down to 4 main domains namely, physical, psychological well-being (Mental Health), social networks or social support and environment. Meanwhile, studies done by [16], [5], [13], and [6] highlight spirituality elements have significant to reduced impact of anxiety, depression, and stressful life event especially for those involved with flood disaster.

The purpose of the study is to improve the level of QoL among flood victims by promoting spirituality elements into QoL model. The main inquiry in this study to examine the role of spirituality to set of variables (Physical Health, Mental Health, Social Support, and Environment) in order to enhance QoL

score among flood victims in TFTC.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW AND HYPOTHESIS

A. The relevance of QoL with Flood Victims

Previous studies show that research regarding to QoL more focusing on four major domains, namely physical health, psychological well-being (mental health), social networking or social support and the environment [4]; [3]; [12], and [14]. Meanwhile, [3] divides the four-dimensional domain with respect to the three main life of humanity such as Being, Belonging and Becoming.

B. The role of Spirituality in QoL

Research done by [16], stated that religious ritual have significant to reduced impact of anxiety, depression, and stressful life event. Meanwhile, in Islam, the implementing of spirituality and religious practice can help victims to cope with the stressful life especially for those involved with flood disaster [5]. By the way, it is line with study done by [13], highlighted that spirituality and social support service provided by third parties such as Government Agencies and NGOs should be more comprehensive to victims at TFTC. [13] also mention that spirituality elements come from higher levels of religious involvement provided greater well-being and mental health among victims. As a result, [13] concluded that spirituality play important role to support flood victims to cope their psychological issues such as avoidance and emotional numbing. As a consequence of this condition, flood victims will able to active in their daily social activity like usually. As a stated earlier, this study assumes that Islamic teaching and practice able to maintain victims condition to moving forward in their life. Besides that, the study done by [2] indicated the role of

psychological factors or mental health have significant effect toward quality of life. In addition, [2] also proposed in the future study to investigate the variables that act as mediators to measure the impact to quality of life included cognitive mechanisms such as belief or spirituality elements. Hence, this study proposing spirituality elements such as victims point of view about fate and facing the flood event as a test in their life including believe there is wisdom behind what happens. How their managing tasks and responsibilities toward religion obligatory as long them stay at TFTC.

C. QoL Model among Flood Victims

Proposing the spirituality elements a part of QoL Model among flood victims at TFTC.

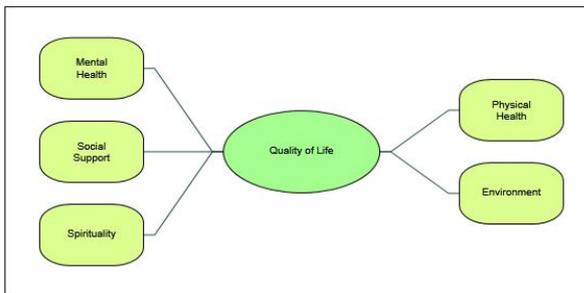


Fig. 1: Proposing QoL Model among Flood Victims at TFTCs

III. METHODOLOGY

This study uses quantitative approaches by collecting literature relating directly and indirectly with the QoL of flood victims. Data will analyses using IBM SPSS AMOS for Confirmatory Factor Analysis (CFA) and assessing Model Fit for QoL Model among flood victims at TFTCs. The primary data obtained from respondents occupy 21 TFTCs by using Purposive Sampling Techniques. The selection of respondents based on flood event occurs from early November 2016 until May 2017. The several visiting TFTCs, this research project able to capture a total number of 296 victims to participate in this research.

A. Questionnaire

A set of questionnaire is develop and organized into eight sections: Section A cover basic information of respondents. Follow by Section B requires the respondents to give respond on QoL consist with 5 questions. While, Section C cover 5 questions regarding to physical health. In the Section D, consist with 5 questions on Mental Health aspects, while in the Section E, highlight the social support and consists of 6 questions. In the Section F, 6 questions are used to ask on environment in TFTC and the end of the part is Section G, consist 6 questions enquiring about Spirituality. Generally, the questionnaire are adapted from World Health Organization Quality of Life (WHOQOL - BREF) and modified based on this research purpose [17]. Meanwhile for Section G, 6

questions are adapted and modified based on Brief Religion Coping (BRCOPE) by [10].

B. Analysis and Model Fit

The reliability test showed that Cronbach's Alpha for overall section is 0.763 and consider acceptable [11]. For analysis researchers using IBM SPSS AMOS for Confirmatory Factor Analysis and assessing Model Fit for QoL Model among flood victims at TFTCs.

IV. RESULTS AND CONCLUSION

The confirmatory factor model analysis results show that significant difference based on Chi-square test analysis. But the results were still accepted as a good fit because the number of respondents is large. The number of items in the questionnaire were 33 items and reduce to 16 items based on CFA (refer to Fig. 2 (a) & (b)). According to Model Fit Summary indicated that CFI and TLI values close to 1 indicated a very good fit. Meanwhile, RMSEA values is about 0.08 or less is consider close fit of the model in relation to the degrees of freedom. Based on the confirmatory factor analysis (before and after), a few item was remove from the components in order to get good fit model. For environment only have 3 items remain, spirituality has 4 items, and physical health only have 2 items remain. Next, social supports only have 3 items and mental health only have 2 items remain left. Thus, QoL only remain 2 items and at end process analysis proven that the model is an acceptable good fit based CFI, TLI, and RMSEA. The CFA indicated that CFI values = 0.838, TLI values = 0.838, and RMSEA = 0.056, after did some adjustment, CFI values = 0.955, TLI values = 0.932, and RMSEA = 0.058. In the conclusion, the proposed model was considered is a good fit and suitable for furthers analysis. The reliability test showed that Cronbach's Alpha for overall section is 0.890 and consider good internal consistency.

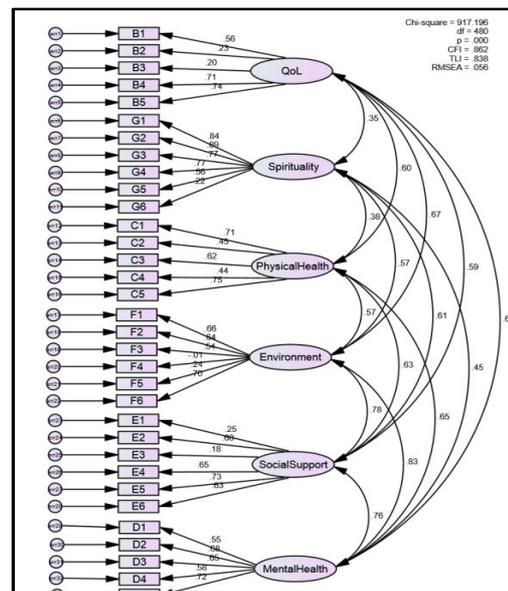


Fig. 2 (a): Confirmatory Factor Model Analysis & Model Fit –

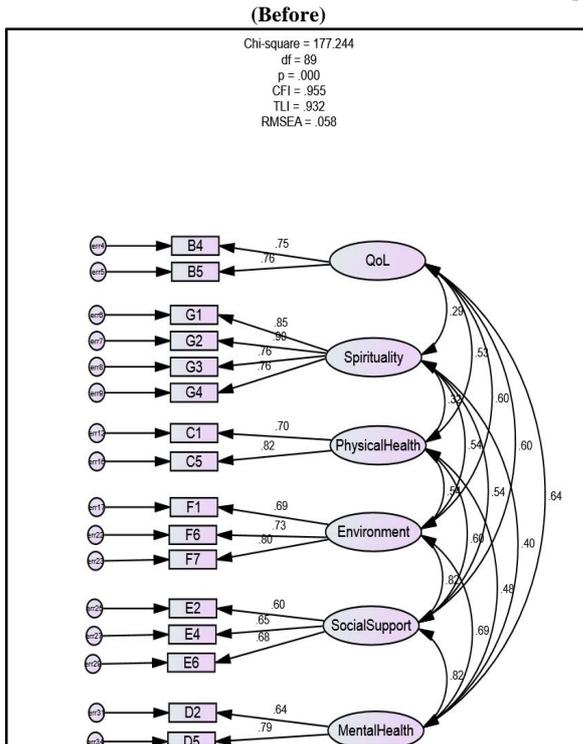


Fig. 2 (b): Confirmatory Factor Model Analysis & Model Fit – (After)

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