

**De La Salle University- Dasmariñas**

**Cavite, Philippines**

**Purpose in Life among  
Institutionalized and Non-institutionalized Elderly Individuals  
and their Perception Towards Death**



**In Partial Fulfillment of the  
Requirements for the Degree Of  
Bachelor Of Arts Major in Psychology**

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## ABSTRACT

**Name of Institution:** De La Salle University-Dasmariñas

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### Objectives:

#### General

To be able know and understand the underlying ideas regarding elderly individual's purpose in life and their perception of death.

#### Specific

This paper specifically aims to answer the following questions:

1. What is the demographic profile of institutionalized and non-institutionalized elderly people according to:

1.1. Age

1.2. Gender

1.3. Marital status

1.4 Number of Children

1.5. Length of stay in the institution (for institutionalized elderly)

- 1.6. Reason for being institutionalized (for institutionalized elderly)
2. What is the level of their purpose in life?
  - 2.1. Institutionalized Elderly
  - 2.2. Non-institutionalized Elderly
3. What is their perception towards death?
  - 3.1. Institutionalized elderly
  - 3.2. Non-institutionalized elderly
4. Is there a significant difference between the purpose in life of institutionalized and non-institutionalized elderly individual?
5. Is there a difference in the perception of death of institutionalized and non-institutionalized elderly individuals?

### **Scope and Limitation**

Purpose in life and the perception towards death of selected institutionalized and non-institutionalized elderly individual will be the focus of this study. The institutionalized participants will be taken from purposively chosen institution at Tahanan ni Maria, Carmona, Cavite. On the other hand, the non-institutionalized elderly participants will be chosen from Senior Citizen Association Cityhomes Resortville Langcaan 2 City of Dasmariñas, Cavite. The participants will be chosen based on the following criteria: (a) elderly individuals with age ranging from 60 years old and above. According to Domingo (1992), 60 is the range of age considered as “old age”. The participants, preferably, (b) can communicate clearly verbally and written and (c) have the ability to answer the questions diligently.

## Methodology

This paper used a descriptive and comparative research method. The participants of the study were 10 elders from the purposively chosen institution which was Tahanan ni Maria, Carmona, Cavite and 10 elders from Senior Citizen Association Cityhomes Resortville Langkaan 2 City of Dasmariñas, Cavite. Purpose in Life Test by Crumbaugh and Maholick (1964) was administered to both groups of participants in order to measure the degree of sense of purpose a person experiences. Focus group discussion interview, specifically *pakikipag-kwentuhan*, was also utilized to gather relevant informations and data regarding elderly people's perception towards death. Inferential statistic, specifically Independent sample t-test, a statistical technique that is used to analyze the mean comparison of the purpose in life of institutionalized and non-institutionalized elderly individual. The researcher used descriptive statistics and content analysis as a tool to know if there is a difference between the two group's perceptions on death.

## Conclusions

Through the study, the following conclusions were made:

1. Institutionalization of the elders has been a practice of the western people and has been starting to be ours too. However, there are families who still prefer to take care of their elderly loved ones as a return for their parents' rearing when they were still young. Sending old people to home for the aged has different reasons. Two of these reasons were: their family sent them because of various reasons or the elder themselves wished to be at the institution.

2. Elderly individuals' life has a purpose too. However, it varies depending on their experiences and their present life situation. Elders inside the institution were found to have a lower level of purpose in life. On the other hand, elders who stayed with their loved ones seem to have a more positive outlook in life.

3. People have different perception as well as acceptance towards death. Elders inside the institution were found to have a more positive view and acceptance towards death. But then, those who were with their families have a difficulty in accepting death. This may be cause by the fact that they have more than those who were in the institution.

4. Elders inside and outside the institution have different life experiences. This life experiences contributed a lot on how they view their present life. The present study obtained an apparent difference between the responses of the two groups.

5. Elders inside the institution seem to be more open when it comes to death acceptance and perceives it positively. However, elders who stayed with their families, though they accept that they will eventually go there, they still have a difficulty in accepting it.

## **Recommendations**

At research level:

1. It is advisable to get more respondents from different places and institutions.
2. Prepare more probing questions to help to emit more responses from the respondents.
3. Be sensitive enough regarding elder's feeling while doing the research.
4. It is also recommended to apply Filipino Psychology principles in writing a paper with the same subject.

At program level:

1. Institutions and non-government organizations for elderly must work to help improve the quality of life in care home, through the development of a range of resources,

- events, practice development initiatives and other activities that could help elderly population to have a more positive view in life.
2. Encourage the relatives to give elders continuous support by giving them regular visits and letting them feel the care that they are important.
  3. Strengthen the culture of volunteerism to young and able individuals to take the plight of the less fortunate into consideration.



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