

Predictors of Life Aspirations' Fulfillment as an effort of Social Workers to Improve the Living Standards of Rural Community

Dewi Kurniasih*

Universitas Komputer Indonesia, Bandung, Indonesia

Yudi Rusfiana

Institut Pemerintahan Dalam Negeri, Jatinangor, Indonesia

*Correspondence: dewi.kurniasih@email.unikom.ac.id

Abstract

With prevalent poverty, poor health conditions, limited economic possibilities, and limited access to education, rural people are deprived of most of life's fundamental essentials. Several social organizations have recognized these potential problems and are attempting to improve rural communities. Considering the importance of social organizations in enhancing the living standards of rural communities, the current study investigates the role of social workers, i.e., rural familiarity and interest, social connections, and place integration, in enhancing community participation and satisfaction, thereby enabling individuals to realize their life goals. A quantitative research approach was utilized to collect data from 480 socially low-income families in rural communities in the Indonesian provinces of South Kalimantan and Banjarmasin. By statistically evaluating the obtained data, it was shown that social workers' traits were vital in providing rural communities with employment prospects by beginning various programs to encourage their involvement and contentment with such projects and activities. Their higher degree of happiness and participation led to realizing their life goals. This study contributes to the existing sociology literature by giving empirical evidence about the role of social workers in enhancing the fulfillment of life aspirations in rural communities, resulting in higher living standards.

Keywords: Rural familiarity and interest; social connections; place integration; fulfillment of life aspirations; community participation and satisfaction

Background

In most regions of the world, residents of remote and rural locations have fewer resources than their metropolis counterparts (Haryanto, Anwarudin, & Yuniarti, 2021). Historically, those living in isolated rural areas have had limited access to education,

health care facilities, and adequate living conditions (Syahputra & Soesanti, 2021). In contrast to urban and suburban settings, rural villages feature abundant open spaces and the least building-based infrastructure (Xu et al., 2020). Most families living in rural areas are impoverished, with inadequate living conditions and slower means of communication, notwithstanding the communities' smaller size and cultural, linguistic, and social homogeneity (Kumar & Kaushal, 2023). In addition, fewer employment options exist for the available labor force. Globally, most rural residents (90%) are engaged in agriculture (Wilson, Harrington, & Kevill, 2022). On the other hand, numerous active welfare organizations worldwide assist rural families, particularly socially deprived persons (Ashcroft et al., 2022).

Social workers assist rural low-income individuals with additional financial support as part of their community welfare services. In addition, social workers assist socially disadvantaged families in times of crisis or adversity (Nordesjo, Scaramuzzino, & Ulmestig, 2022). The research presents evidence regarding the efforts of various social workers to provide possibilities for career growth, recruitment, and retention in multiple jobs to the inhabitants of rural areas to promote economic stability in rural communities (Balasubramaniam et al., 2022; Jamilah, 2021). Similarly, in the past, most researchers have emphasized the numerous services offered by social workers in rural regions to improve the population's health conditions (Cosgrave, Malatzky, & Gillespie, 2019). Similarly, several academics have discussed the government's policies and procedures designed for rural populations (Leonhardt et al., 2022). Yet, it has not been previously examined to what extent rural residents achieve their life goals due to social workers' efforts to enhance their living situations. Additionally, social relationships between social workers and individuals living in rural regions and social workers' integration into their communities have received little consideration when analyzing the level of life satisfaction among rural populations to enhance their living standards.

Social workers are considered an integral component of society. They assist socially disadvantaged persons in improving their mental and physical health and living conditions by providing education, food, and housing (Ferguson, Kelly, & Pink, 2022). In contrast, social workers' rural familiarity and interest demonstrate the existence of solid social linkages with the physical environment and their knowledge of

the rural way of life, thereby exerting a powerful pull impact on improving the living conditions of rural populations (Hajhashemi et al., 2018). As social workers socially interact with the rural poor who lack basic requirements, they can better comprehend rural communities' crises and issues (Habes, Salous, & Al Jwaniat, 2022). In addition, they utilized place integration by identifying socially disadvantaged groups of individuals and working for their welfare.

In addition, the engagement of the community that social workers are attempting to supply with necessities is crucial. Therefore, investing in initiatives in which rural residents can participate and work is highly fruitful in rural areas (Balasubramaniam et al., 2022; Cheung, 2022). This level of community participation in various programs undertaken by social workers makes the impoverished even happier and encourages them to work hard to better their living conditions. In addition, the living goals of rural areas include the availability of healthcare, education, and adequate work possibilities to meet the daily needs of rural residents (Janke & Dickhauser, 2019a). For rural communities to compete with urban economies, it is also necessary to boost rural development planning by integrating rural sectors more equitably and efficiently (Mota et al., 2022). Social workers must adhere to this rule to decrease discrimination between rural and urban areas.

In addition, the current research was conducted in a developing nation, Indonesia, where most of the population resides in rural areas (Setiawan, Nur, & Nurdiyana, 2022). In addition, rural communities in Indonesia subsist on agriculture/farming, livestock keeping, fishing, etc. (Nakajima et al., 2021). On the other hand, due to the scarcity of employment prospects in rural areas, most rural inhabitants are migrating to metropolitan areas for the surge of employment chances, educational objectives, and improvement of living standards (Syahputra & Soesanti, 2021). This will result in a long-term imbalance in the provision of agricultural products. Thus, social workers play a crucial role in maintaining this equilibrium and improving the socioeconomic situation of rural areas (Converso et al., 2021). The current study is based on aspiration theory, which postulates the importance of quality of life (Kim, 1970), emphasizes the individual's current well-being and aspirations, and cautions against

falling short of particular life standards (Janke & Dickhauser, 2019a). It also demonstrates that rural populations are motivated by the life amenities offered in urban areas and wish to attain similar standards, for which they require the assistance of social workers to execute their goals and attain more significant living standards. In establishing the ambition theory, the objective of the present work is to;

- Examine the impact of social workers' attributes, i.e., rural familiarity and interest, social connections, and place integration with rural community's participation and satisfaction and fulfillment of life aspiration.
- Examine the impact of rural community participation and satisfaction on their fulfillment of life aspirations.
- Examine the underlying mechanism of rural community participation and satisfaction between the association of social workers' attributes, i.e., rural familiarity and interest, social connections, and place integration with the fulfillment of life aspiration.

Literature Review

The familiarity of social workers with the rural community demonstrates their understanding of the cultural practices, demands, and requirements of the people residing in a specific location (Dinh & Nguyen, 2020). It also demonstrates the social workers' desire to improve rural communities' social and economic situations. Social workers must enhance the conditions of a community and create employment chances for its members by identifying their problems and assisting them with basic needs (Sipahi Dongul & Artantaş, 2022). So, when social workers are familiar with a particular area, they are better positioned to identify socially impoverished families or groups and expressly assist them by providing basic amenities. In addition to familiarity, social workers must have a strong desire to improve the living conditions of the poor. It demonstrates that social workers wish to assist the disadvantaged by providing mental and physical health facilities and enhancing their well-being (Ashcroft et al., 2022). Researchers have previously reported the importance of social workers' involvement during natural catastrophes. Many academics have recently highlighted the participation of social workers during COVID-19 in terms of raising

knowledge of the virus, assisting the needy in reaching medical centers, and giving food and shelter (Amadasun, 2020; Ashcroft et al., 2022; Banks et al., 2020).

Hypothesis Development

Social Workers' Attributes, Rural Community's Participation, Satisfaction and Fulfillment of Life Aspiration

In contrast, the present study focuses on the function of social workers in rural communities, where most people lack access to healthcare facilities, educational institutions, employment possibilities, etc. This research establishes the aspiration theory's assumptions. It posits that when social workers are familiar with rural communities and are entrusted with assisting them, they establish initiatives that are in the best interests of rural residents. Implementing such programs increases the participation and satisfaction of rural communities in such initiatives, leading to the achievement of life goals.

Also, when social workers have a stronger connection to rural areas, they can better comprehend their challenges (Sun et al., 2021). These social ties also encourage them to participate actively in community development activities (Haslam et al., 2022). In addition, place integration inspires social workers to engage in beneficial activities for rural communities since it represents the social worker's sense of affiliation with such locations (Banks et al., 2020). So, when social workers affiliate with and view themselves as members of rural communities and local networks, they develop a higher desire to engage in welfare activities for rural populations. The prior study lacked evidence about the influence of social workers' social connections and place integrations on the involvement and satisfaction of rural communities in various activities established by social workers, resulting in greater life aspiration fulfillment. Consequently, the current study fills this gap and tests the hypothesis that;

H1: *There is a positive influence of social workers' attributes. i.e., a) rural familiarity and interest, b) social connections and c) place integration with rural community's fulfillment of life aspiration.*

H2: *There is a positive influence on social workers' attributes. i.e., a) rural familiarity and interest, b) social connections and c) place integration with rural community's participation*

and satisfaction.

Rural Community's Participation and Satisfaction and Fulfillment of Life Aspiration

Globally, the rural community is an essential component of the national economy. When rural populations are satisfied with their participation in various programs, starting at the micro and macro levels, their living conditions improve (Wilson et al., 2022). Researchers have also linked community engagement to completing specific regional duties (Harrington, Erete, & Piper, 2019). Similarly, Khomiuk et al. (2020) said that when regional authorities are delegated and communities are invited to participate in various activities, their happiness with these activities increases. This high level of contentment assists individuals in achieving their livelihood and collective welfare goals. In the current study, similar findings are used by hypothesizing that when rural communities participate in the various initiatives established by social workers, they get a sense of satisfaction and accomplishment due to the employment prospects produced by such projects. These levels of participation and contentment assist them in achieving their desired objectives, resulting in life fulfillment. In light of the ambition theory and the preceding reasoning, the current investigation hypothesizes that:

H3: *There is a positive association between the rural community's participation and satisfaction with their fulfillment of life aspirations.*

Rural Community's Participation and Satisfaction as a Mediator

Social workers play a crucial role in improving the physical and emotional health of the residents in particular locations (Hermansson et al., 2022). They also encourage individuals to engage in specific behaviors or avoid certain undesirable ones. In this setting, most scholarly arguments concern social workers' role in health care centers (Converso et al., 2021). Where the majority of social welfare volunteers work to provide health facilities to socially disadvantaged families and groups (Ashcroft et al., 2022; Cosgrave et al., 2019; Nordesjo et al., 2022). In contrast, the primary focus of the present study remained the social worker's characteristics or attributes in terms of their familiarity with the local communities; interest in resolving

the issues of rural communities; their social connections with the rural communities; and place integration to extract their benefits in the form of assisting the local communities in achieving their desired life goals by attaining a certain level of participation and satisfaction. In presenting the underlying mechanism of community participation and satisfaction in transmitting the significant impact of social workers' familiarity and interest with rural communities, their social connections, and place integration to develop and enhance the fulfillment of life aspirations among rural communities, the current study would be a significant contribution to the sociology literature. Thus, it is predicted, based on the theory and logical reasoning, that;

H4: *Rural community participation and satisfaction mediate the association between the social workers' attributes, i.e., a) rural familiarity and interest, b) social connections, and c) place integration with the rural community's fulfillment of life aspiration.*

Theoretical Framework of the Study

Figure 1 illustrates the theoretical framework of the study extracted based on the literature review and the assumptions of the aspiration theory.

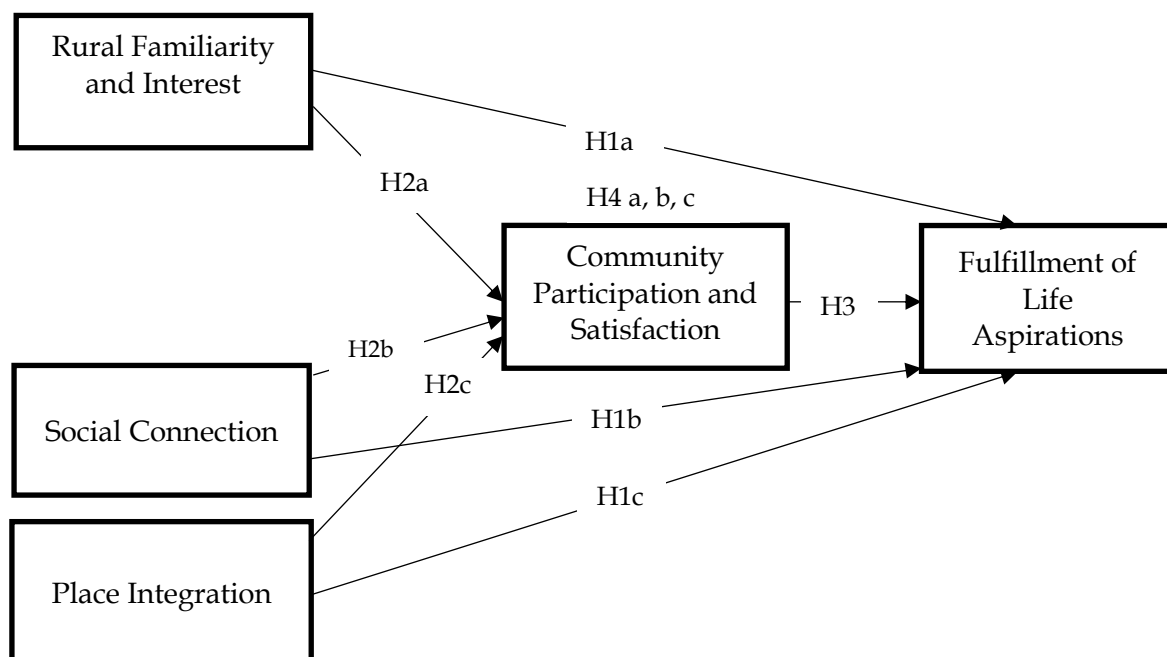


Figure 1: Theoretical Framework

Methodology

Participants and Procedures

Examining the function of the social worker in determining community

participation and satisfaction that leads to the achievement of life goals, the current study utilized a quantitative research approach and a random convenience sample strategy. This study's primary focus remained on rural areas in a developing nation, Indonesia. In contrast, the study's population covers all socially deprived individuals and households assisted by rural social workers. To be more particular regarding sample size, the current study was limited to 20 rural communities/areas in two Indonesian provinces, namely South Kalimantan and Banjarmasin. Indonesia is one of the most populous countries in Asia, with around 42.71 percent of its people living in rural areas (Karuniawati et al., 2021). Recently, Indonesia became the third Asian nation to offer social workers explicit legal protections and well-defined legislation for social work practices (Nurani, Sugiyanto, & Hermawati, 2022). Hence, numerous social worker organizations are improving the living conditions of the impoverished in rural towns.

To examine the role of such social workers, researchers traveled to 20 rural areas and identified individuals (as data collectors) who may facilitate access to socially disadvantaged families receiving assistance from social workers. The writers did so with the assistance of data collectors who were indigenous to these rural communities. They were required to locate low-income families and solicit their participation in the study. This entire data collection procedure began in January 2021. The data collectors visited the shortlisted rural areas and contacted socially disadvantaged households receiving assistance from social workers in education, employment possibilities, and health facilities. Realizing the significance of the study to academics, around 527 families consented to participate. Following six months of this exercise, the otters got roughly 480 valid responses, which were included in the analysis.

Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

The respondents' characteristics showed that most respondents (73%) were male, and 27% were female. The participants' ages ranged from 21 to 66 years (Mean=41 years; STD= 09.2). Almost half of the respondents (51.2%) were married. 78% of the participants were undergraduates, 20% were graduates, add 2 % were postgraduates. Regarding availing the social workers help, 25% of the household

reported since 1-5 years, 43% reported since 5- 10 years, and 32% said more than 10 years. As a result of social workers' efforts, approximately 49% of the household were employed, 47% got access to educational facilities, and 33% reported the availability of health facilities when they needed them in times of crisis. Likewise, some households reported social workers' help in providing food, shelter, and other necessities of life in times of need. These characteristics further depict social workers' significant role in enhancing the living standards of socially deprived households in rural communities.

Study Measures

The survey questionnaire consisted of 26 items. Rural familiarity and interest were measured with 5 items adapted from [Zheng et al. \(2021\)](#). To measure social connections, 6 items were adapted from [Cosgrave et al. \(2019\)](#). Besides, place integration was measured with 5 items by [Cosgrave et al. \(2019\)](#). Whereas community participation and satisfaction 4 items from [Zheng et al. \(2021\)](#). Finally, fulfillment of life aspirations was measured with 6 items adapted from [Janke and Dickhäuser \(2019b\)](#).

Results

Measurement Model

Using SmartPLS v.4 software, the current study employed structural equation modeling to examine the link between independent factors and dependent and mediating variables. Initially, skewness and kurtosis were produced as descriptive statistics for the study constructs. All of the skewness and kurtosis values for the study constructs fell within the ranges of +1 to -1 and +2 to -2, respectively, indicating a normal distribution. Second, we employed simulation analysis to empirically evaluate the impact of respondents' demographic characteristics on the realization of life objectives among rural residents. The results demonstrated that respondents' gender affected their perspectives on the dependent variables. Thus, the gender wars of participants were controlled during the regression analysis. Based on the values of factor loadings, Cronbach Alpha (CA), Composite Reliability (CR), and Average Variance Extracted, we evaluated the normalcy and validity of study constructs in the

third stage (AVE). The results indicated that the factor loadings of all items assessing research constructs exceeded 0.70. (Mansoor, Awan, & Paracha, 2022; Sulasmi & Dalle, 2022).

Similarly, the data revealed CA and CR values greater than 0.70. Therefore establishing the validity and dependability of the metric (Sarstedt, Ringle, & Hair, 2017). In addition, the AVE values of all study constructs were more significant than 0.70, demonstrating the convergent validity of the measures (Mansoor, Awan, & Paracha, 2021; Sarstedt et al., 2017). Table 1 contains the factor loadings of each item, CR, CA, and AVE values for each variable/construct.

Table 1: Factor loadings, reliability, and validity

Constructs/Indicators	Factor Loadings					AVE	CR	CA
	1	2	3	4	5			
Rural Familiarity and Interest						0.598	0.881	0.790
RFAI1	0.748							
RFAI2	0.764							
RFAI3	0.818							
RFAI4	0.793							
RFAI5	0.740							
Social Connections						0.557	0.883	0.796
SC1		0.747						
SC2		0.742						
SC3		0.767						
SC4		0.742						
SC5		0.752						
SC6		0.728						
Place Integration						0.537	0.853	0.735
PI1			0.702					
PI2			0.701					
PI3			0.705					
PI4			0.779					

PI5	0.773			
Community Participation and Satisfaction		0.625	0.869	0.743
SPC1	0.802			
SPC2	0.788			
SPC3	0.819			
SPC4	0.751			
Fulfillment of Life Aspirations		0.624	0.909	0.806
FLA1	0.810			
FLA2	0.815			
FLA3	0.800			
FLA4	0.756			
FLA5	0.790			
FLA6	0.766			

"Note: CR, composite reliability; CA, Cronbach Alpha; AVE, average variance extracted."

After establishing the convergent validity, the authors also calculated the discriminant validity among the study constructs to deal with the potential multicollinearity issues. The values of "the Heterotrait-Monotrait (HTMT) ratio" were calculated for that purpose (Henseler, Ringle, & Sarstedt, 2015; Noor, Mansoor, & Shamim, 2022). As shown in Table 2, the HTMT values for all the variables analyzed in the current study are less than 0.85, which is under the suggested range by the scholars reflecting no multicollinearity issues among the study variables (Mansoor et al., 2021).

Table 2: Heterotrait-Monotrait Ratio

Constructs	Mean	Std	1	2	3	4	5
Rural Familiarity and Interest	4.12	0.94	0.773				
Social Connections	3.82	1.13	0.561	0.746			
Place Integration	4.01	0.98	0.500	0.591	0.732		
Community Participation and	3.85	1.08	0.490	0.468	0.601	0.790	

Satisfaction

Fulfillment of Life Aspirations	3.97	1.00	0.485	0.468	0.527	0.547	0.789
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“Note: the square roots of AVEs of the constructs are shown in bold in diagonal.”

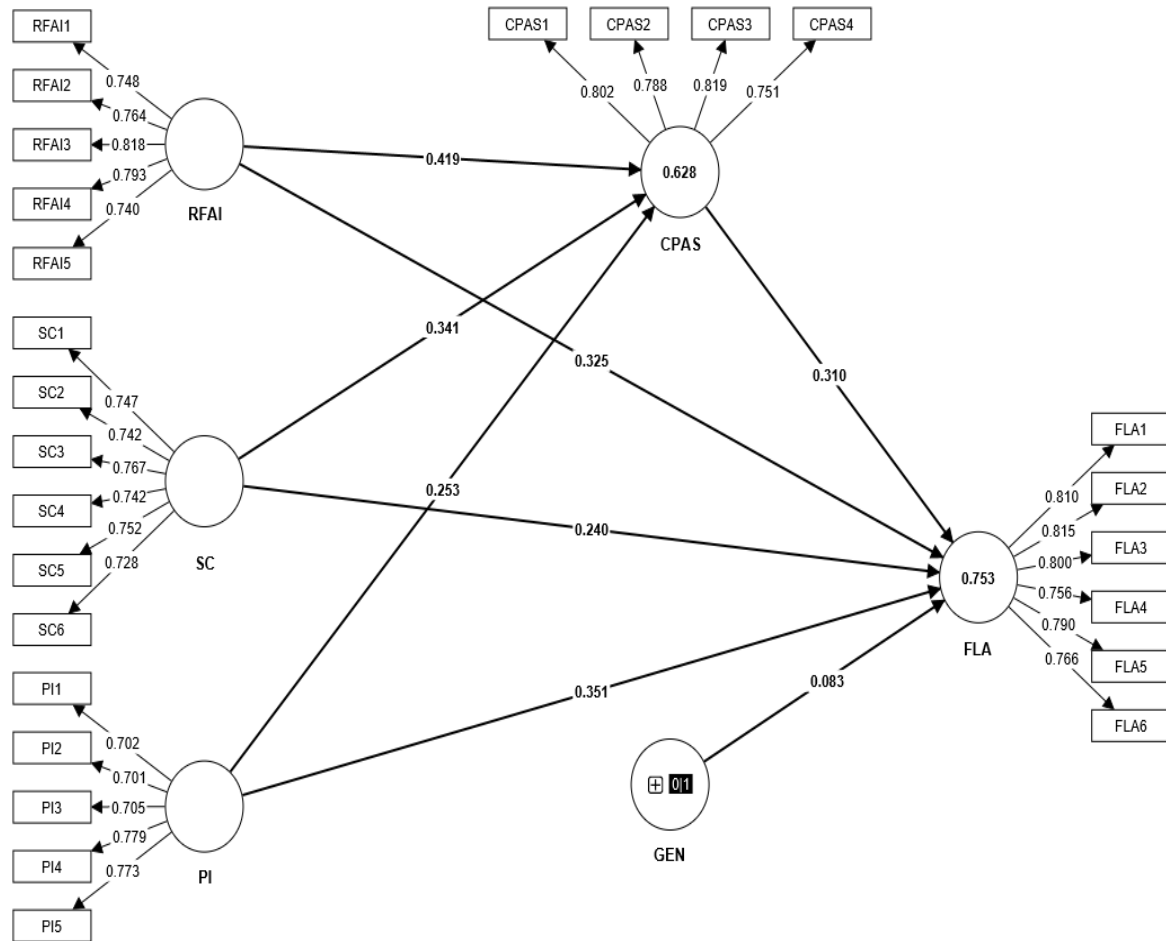


Figure 2: Full measurement model

Structural Model

The coefficient of determination (R²) was calculated to present the linear relationship among the study variables. The results showed that the R² value for community participation and satisfaction was 0.628 (See Figure 2). In contrast, the R² value for fulfilling life aspirations was 0.753. these values of an R² depict a 62.8% and 75.3% variance in community participation and satisfaction and fulfillment of life aspirations, respectively, under the influence of all the independent constructs. These significant results showed the overall fitness of the current study model, presenting significant direct and indirect associations among the study variables.

Direct Hypotheses

The current study findings, as presented in Table 3, illustrate the significant positive impact of social workers' *rural familiarity and interest* ($\beta = 0.325^{***}$, $t = 4.776$), *social connections* ($\beta = 0.240^{**}$, $t = 3.653$), and *place integration* ($\beta = 0.351^{***}$, $t = 5.341$) on *fulfillment of life aspirations*. Moreover, *social workers' rural familiarity and interest* ($\beta = 0.419^{***}$, $t = 6.734$), *social connections* ($\beta = 0.341^{***}$, $t = 5.112$), and *place integration* ($\beta = 0.253^{**}$, $t = 3.749$) had a positive influence on the *community participation and satisfaction*. Simultaneously, *community participation and satisfaction* positively influenced the *fulfillment of life aspirations* ($\beta = 0.310^{***}$, $t = 4.321$). These results support hypotheses H1 a, b, c; H2 a, b, c; and H3.

Mediations Hypotheses

The study findings supported the mediation hypotheses H4 a, b, and c. The indirect influence of *social workers' rural familiarity and interest* ($\beta = 0.322^{***}$, $t = 4.672$), *social connections* ($\beta = 0.290^{**}$, $t = 4.225$), and *place integration* ($\beta = 0.189^{**}$, $t = 2.945$) on *fulfillment of life aspirations* via the mediatory role of *community participation and satisfaction* was supported by results as shown in Table 3.

Table 3: Hypothesis Testing Results

	Hypotheses	Std. Beta	t-value	p-values	Supported
H1a	RFAI→FLA	0.325	4.776	0.000	Yes
H1b	SC→ FLA	0.240	3.653	0.007	Yes
H1c	PI→ FLA	0.351	5.341	0.000	Yes
H2a	RFAI→CPAS	0.419	6.734	0.000	Yes
H2b	SC→ CPAS	0.341	5.112	0.000	Yes
H2c	PI→ CPAS	0.253	3.749	0.007	Yes
H3	CPAS → FLA	0.310	4.321	0.000	Yes
H4a	RFAI→CPAS→ FLA	0.322	4.672	0.000	Yes
H4b	SC→ CPAS→ FLA	0.290	4.225	0.003	Yes
H4c	PI→ CPAS→ FLA	0.189	2.945	0009	Yes

Where: RFAI= Rural Familiarity and Interest; SC=Social Connections; PI=Place Integration; CPAS= Community Participation and Satisfaction; FLA= Fulfillment of Life Aspirations

Discussion

Study Findings

In light of the importance of rural communities and government welfare to the socioeconomic development of a nation as a whole, this study focused on the fulfillment of rural communities' life goals. To achieve this, we incorporated the sociology notion of social workers' traits, such as their rural familiarity and interest, social connections, and place integration, with rural communities' engagement and pleasure in various social workers-initiated projects. The results demonstrate that social workers' rural acquaintance and interest substantially impact the realization of rural residents' life goals. Similarly, the rural familiarity and interest of social workers have a favorable effect on the amount of rural community participation and satisfaction with the macro and micro projects social workers begin for the welfare of rural communities.

When social workers are familiar with rural communities' culture, customs, needs, and requirements and are engaged in finding solutions to their problems, they are more equipped to assist these communities. If this assistance takes the form of providing rural communities with employment opportunities and initiating projects that improve the living standards and well-being of rural communities (Nordesjo et al., 2022), then not only do these communities participate in such activities, but they are also pleased with the initiatives taken by social workers. Similarly, initiatives that provide rural populations with necessities assist them in achieving their life goals. In earlier scholarly papers, the responsibility of social workers during catastrophes and natural disasters to aid socially disadvantaged populations and provide them with essential services such as health care, food, and shelter has been underlined (Ashcroft et al., 2022; Cheung, 2022).

In addition, research findings demonstrate the significance of social connections forged by social workers with rural communities in boosting their engagement and pleasure in various activities they have begun. It also indicates that social workers are more driven to improve living circumstances when linked to local inhibitors. This improvement in rural communities' living conditions further contributes to their prosperity and the socioeconomic growth of the entire region.

These findings can also be related to the work of Kumar and Kaushal (2023), who found that social connections forged between diverse populations and individuals or groups inspire them to engage in activities that benefit both sides. Similarly, social relationships are recognized as crucial indicators of a helpful environment in the workplace context (Haslam et al., 2022).

In addition, the study found that social workers view integration as a significant predictor of their efforts to increase the engagement and satisfaction of rural communities in various programs and projects for their benefit. These findings can be attributed to the voluntary participation of social workers in various activities based on their affinities with particular locations, as they believe themselves to be a part of that place or region (Ferguson et al., 2022). For example, scholars have emphasized the importance of the social worker's involvement in the tourism industry to guide tourists and maintain the natural habitat of specific locations by giving volunteer services (Bavik & Kuo, 2022; Higgins-Desbiolles, Bigby, & Doering, 2022).

The data also demonstrated the strong relationship between the engagement and contentment of rural communities and their achievement of life goals. This further explains the significance of the rural community's engagement and satisfaction with the social workers' activities and programs in achieving the goals that diverse rural community members envisioned. It also demonstrates that to increase the welfare of a community and attain the criteria of well-being, social workers or social organizations must offer diverse employment options to the people, particularly the poor and disadvantaged. These findings can be related to the work of Yandi and Havidz (2022), who reported the importance of engagement and enjoyment in enhancing an individual's performance. Similarly, achieving life goals has been regarded as a potential consequence of individual happiness (Datu et al., 2022). The results also uniquely illustrate the underlying mechanism of rural community participation and satisfaction to convey the importance of social workers' rural familiarity and interest, social connections, and place integration in promoting rural community members' fulfillment of life goals. When rural populations are interested in participating in various events and programs created by social workers, they are

more satisfied with their services in rural regions, according to these studies. These high levels of happiness contribute to the realization of their life goals.

Theoretical Implications

The current study is a significant contribution to the existing sociology literature in terms of merging social workers' traits and rural communities' attitudes and actions by developing a framework to examine the elements influencing the achievement of life goals among rural communities. In addition to establishing the assumptions of aspiration theory (Kim, 1970), the current study is the first to present empirical evidence regarding social workers' rural familiarity, connections, and place integration in benefiting a mainly rural area and its inhabitants. This study also contributes to the existing literature by emphasizing the significance of rural community participation and satisfaction in the form of employment creation and utilization of their skills and talents to transmit the significance of efforts imparted by social workers to their life inspiration fulfillment. Before now, most researchers have emphasized social workers' function in assisting individuals during emergencies and providing primary health care (Ashcroft et al., 2022; Nordesjo et al., 2022). In contrast, the present study's primary focus is the rural community's welfare. The methodology of the present study was based on the projects or programs established by social workers in rural regions to improve the living conditions of the poor and their well-being and welfare by assisting them in achieving their intended goals.

Conclusion

In addition to various theoretical contributions, the present study is useful for policymakers, academics, government organizations, and social workers in launching operations in rural areas that will help the most significant number of people in such locations. When social workers are familiar with rural areas and interested in supplying them with necessities, they are better positioned to assist rural residents in achieving a specific level of life satisfaction and ambition fulfillment. Hence, social organizations might train their workers to become a part of particular communities to comprehend the challenges and problems of that community to fix those issues and

concerns. Similarly, social workers should be encouraged to view themselves as members of specific communities or regions to empathize with the plight of local inhabitants regarding their substandard living conditions and lack of necessities. If they have a stronger connection with rural communities, they will be in a better position to assist them in achieving their goals. Government entities should also prioritize socially poor places and disadvantaged populations to provide just and equal facilities like those in urban areas. Once residents of different regions, regardless of their social development, have the same amenities, they become more loyal to the nation and a source of national wealth. By encouraging social workers to launch various projects and provide employment possibilities to rural residents, discrimination can be eliminated among members of the same nation. To this end, the government and policymakers should honor the work of social workers at the national level by praising their efforts and publicizing them in international forums to encourage others to engage in similar endeavors.

Limitations

In addition to its many merits, the current study contains a few shortcomings that, if rectified in the future, could greatly serve the general public. In contrast to previous studies, which have either provided a literature review or qualitative findings regarding the study area, the current research has primarily focused on empirically investigating the social worker's attributes in developing and enhancing the fulfillment of life goals in rural communities. This demonstrates two opposites. The prior study was based on a qualitative approach, while the current research is based on a quantitative methodology. In the future, researchers can use hybrid methods by qualitatively emphasizing the many features and necessary attitudes of social organizations for enhancing the social conditions of rural areas and empirically examining the same to produce more generalized results. In addition, the current study has solely evaluated the mediatory role of rural community engagement and satisfaction to convey the importance of social workers' qualities in achieving life goals. In contrast, future research may incorporate moderating variables to account for their contingent role. To this end, the roles of religiosity, government laws, and

decentralization can be analyzed contingently to determine the fulfillment of life goals in rural communities.

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