

Remarriage in Elderly: A Qualitative Research

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Abstract: In elderly life, the phenomenon of losing spouse is considered as a natural thing, especially since the death of spouse. Life as a widow or widower is also encountered in the community. However, although not too much, some elderly people get married again after losing their partners. They feel loneliness and expect to live much happier with the presence of a new partner. Remarriage is mostly done by elderly men than women.

This study used qualitative method to conduct in-depth interviews on all subjects. Three of them are elderly men 68, 72, 75 and two others are 65 and 67 years elderly women. This study aims to explore: (1) What are the factors that encourage elder people to marry again? (2) Are there any difference objectives in elderly men and women who remarried?

Results showed that the remarriage of elderly men because of their need to have younger wife to take care of them. Their couples are eager to improve their life due to the fact that he has a steady income or pension. One of elderly women remarried in order to survive and stay together. Another subject gets remarried since she was reunited with her ex-boyfriend to make amends for her faults in the past because of marrying her parents choice.

Key words: remarriage, elderly men, elderly women

1. Research Background

Marriage is a very important relationship to elderly people who had lost their much role. They had retired from their job, so they lost their friends and also their role as parents or they felt the empty nest because their children had left their house to stay with their own family. They have flaws and weaknesses that inhibited them in their social relationship.

The research of Clarke-Stewart et al. (Indriana, 2012) showed that the married elderly people had higher life satisfaction than unmarried elderly people did. The same result also was shown in Indriana's research that there was a significant different life satisfaction between married elderly people and unmarried elderly people, that F score = 24.135; t score = 4.913; $p = 0.00$. The life satisfaction's mean score of the married elderly people = 24.798 that was higher than the life satisfaction's mean score of the unmarried elderly people = 21.300. From those researches, it can be assumed that the marriage is an important relationship in the elderly life.

In marital relation, someone has a spouse in their life. The presence of spouse in a marriage as same as in a remarriage that can make the elderly people happier because the life satisfaction is an indicator of happiness (Neugarten in Indriana, 2012). That is why, it is important to know how the remarriage is, especially in elderly life. In this research we can learn about remarriage from five subjects who had participated. Hopefully it can be a reference for other research and give a contribution in our knowledge.

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1.1 Research Objectives

This study aims to explore:

- (1) What are the factors that encourage elder people to marry again?
- (2) Are there any difference objectives in elderly men and women who remarried?

1.2 Research Contributions

- (1) Able to determine the factors that encourage or cause and the perceived benefits of the elderly by performing a remarriage.
- (2) Able to give consideration to the elderly who want to get married again.

2. Literature Review

2.1 Marriage

According to Article 1 of the Law of the Republic of Indonesia 1974 No. 1 of 1974, marriage is a bond between the inner and outer man with one woman as husband and wife with the intention of forming families (households) happily and eternal based on God. In marriage both parties share experiences, feelings and thoughts, so a long time married couples often seem to have the nearly similar attitude, nature, values and interests. According to Sadli (in Dagun, 2002) the characteristics of marriage are:

- (1) Marriage, a union between two persons, is unique and the formal basic to establish a family life.
- (2) The bond between husband and wife is based primarily on affectional ties and bonds.
- (3) In marriage life (and family), interaction and intercommunication exist between two or more persons, each of which fills the role as father, mother, child, brother and sister.
- (4) In carrying out its role, each has a responsibility to him/herself.
- (5) Marriage and family life show many similarities with the prevailing cultural patterns.
- (6) Husband and wife in a marriage life are demanded to adapt to the needs of each and the prevailing culture.

The purpose of marriage, in addition to forming a happy family, is eternity. It is important to realize that in Indonesia, the community is expected to get married once and for all, lasts a lifetime and forever. The main underlying reason for a marriage is to have a friend who loves him/her and gain a psychological satisfaction in the relationship. But in its development, objectives in conducting a marriage partner is manifold. There are couples who marry for economic reasons, i.e., someone who is married to someone else in order to maintain the viability of the material. Other reasons, frequently encountered, are getting married for the sake of offspring, social status, for love and so on.

Each individual has a reason and purpose to get married. However, having marital relationship in a warm, open, respectful, harmonious sex life, and a long-term commitment is not as easy as imagined. Couples who are able to realize the goal in a marriage will be satisfied in the marriage relationship and strive for happiness and success of a marriage. In contrast, couples who are not able to realize the goal from the beginning of their marriage, will feel a marital dissatisfaction and can lead to an unhappy relationship in their marriage.

Consideration of socio-economic status and psychological needs of a spouse will usually be the main objective. Individuals will feel a joy when finding satisfaction in marital relationships. The history of success in a marriage is influenced by whether a married couple is able to feel the satisfaction of marital relationships which

they live for. Marital satisfaction criteria are as follows:

- (1) Toughness of both partners to a permanent commitment.
- (2) There should be no difference between the two couples who engaged in a conflict continuously and caused anxiety among them.
- (3) Cohesively unifying the two couples.
- (4) Opportunities for growth and development of each individual are found in a marriage.
- (5) Approval in a variety of important issues that are found in the marriage.
- (6) Happiness in marriage.
- (7) The extent to which marriage meets the needs and demands of the society (Haveman E. & Lehtinen M., 1986).

2.2 Elderly People

The elderly is a designation for those who have entered the age of 60 and above. The Law of the Republic of Indonesia 1998 Number 13 on Elderly Welfare Chapter I Article 1, which mention that an Elderly is a person who has reached the age of sixty (60) and above. Potential Elderly who are still capable of doing the job or activity that can produce the goods and or services. There is a potential that the elderly is not powerless to make a living and not depending their life on the help of others.

Potential elderly usually lives in their own homes or does not live in a nursing home. They are still able to work and earn a living for himself and his family. Unpotential elderly needs help from others to meet their daily needs. For those who still have families, they will depend on their families. For those who no longer have a family or abandoned, usually will become nursing home residents under the auspices of the Ministry of Social Affairs. All their needs are the responsibility of the nursing home and they usually stay there until the end of their life.

Many people recognized the term to describe the elderly after they have reached this stage in their life. Another term is an abbreviation of the elderly, stands for old age. There is another term that was more pleasing to the ear is a quarterly which stands for senior citizens.

At the time a person enters the elderly stage, many changes occur in physically, mentally, and socially. Physical changes, among others, are the decline in physical strength, stamina, and appearance. This may cause some people to become depressed or unhappy when entering old age. They become ineffective in work and social roles, if they depend on the physical energy that, now, he does not have anymore. Instead, they should emphasize more on their thinking skills rather than physical skills in problem solving. So, the most important for the elderly, is the shift from the physical abilities to mental abilities or wisdom in his behavior (Indriana, 2012).

In older adult, mental illness has been occurred, frequently is depression. It is because of many changes in elderly life, such as the loss of spouse and peers, social isolation, stress of concurrent illnesses, retirement, the loss of home and drug interactions. Depressive syndrome often presents in a variety of ways such as non-specific somatic complaints (e.g., pain, constipation, ill-defined dyspnea apathy, memory or concentration problems) rather than with a depressed mood (Lewis S. C, 2003). As a natural process, human development for the period from the beginning to the elderly, it is a fact that cannot be avoided. It opposes all efforts to rejuvenate no matter how sophisticated, it is impossible to deter the continuing age. Fighting against the continuation of the age is completely losing position, or a no win situation, which ultimately will only be a source of accumulated stress and frustration. In every stage in life, it should be accepted as reasonable that the readiness for entering the elderly as a new reality should be greeted with the ability to make use of optimum adaptation. With such readiness, people

will be able to accept themselves or have a good self-acceptance and achieve peace psychic (Hasan F., 2000).

As social beings, humans have the ability to demonstrate personal identity and achieve a variety of achievements and satisfactions in various social relationships. Marriage is essential in human social relationships because, in addition to their intrinsic interest, the bond supports for social activities and social relationships. It looks devastated when someone loses his/her partner and lead to some changes in his/her daily life and other necessary social roles. They lost the feeling of being “part of the family”, and these changes have long-term impact in a person’s lifestyle.

Various satisfaction can be achieved from our relationships with others. There are three basic requirements that encourage personal satisfaction in social relationship :

(1) Inclusion: the need to be known and owned, to feel that he/she is influential and beneficial.

(2) Compassion/affection: the need for intimacy and emotional attachment, to feel that he/she is loved, the need to be noticed and getting support.

(3) Control: the need to obtain a public award which aims are to feel that he/she is competent and responsible (Kimmel D. C., 1990).

Being a widow or widower is likely to be experienced by the elderly who lives longer than their spouses. Thus, the elderly should have higher acceptance to death which at times will befall him/her and his/her partner (Indriana, 2012)

2.3 Remarriage

It is a marriage which is conducted after the end of the previous marriage either because of divorce or death of a spouse. Many factors influence the occurrence of remarriage, and the number of men who do so much more than women. Age is also an influential, and the older is the less likely to remarry.

The second marriage is not always better than first marriages. Many things led to this. Spouse bring his whole personality into a second marriage, but partly contributed to the problem in the previous marriage. Problem that must be faced is also more complex which may not be found in the previous marriage, such as combining family. The presence of stepchildren in a marriage will add to the problem instead of not having a stepchild.

According to the census of 2006 in the U.S have, that 32% of the population aged over 65 years are widows and widowers. Most of them managed to adapt themselves after the loss of their partner, which is the result of their resilience. Thus, remarriage rate in elderly men and women is relatively low. This is due to lack of desire to form a new romantic relationship (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Remarriage>).

The purpose of every human being is to obtain satisfaction in his life. Life satisfaction is a measure of happiness, which can be achieved when a person feels happy in all aspects of life. Happiness is to be undertaken, especially in the elderly because this period is the epilogue in human life span. The elderly is the last chance to be able to achieve happiness in life.

The happiness in life of older persons is basically an adaptation process to various losses, such as loss of job, loss of a spouse, and loss of ability, both physical and mental, as well as adaptation to suppress events.

The living conditions of elderly people who are able to assess positively the changes that occurred in his/her life as a natural process that had to be accepted, he/she will usually undergo old age with a happy feeling. A feeling of happiness is a testament to a person's success in life and vice versa. If the elderly are not likely to be able to accept or reject the changes in his/her life, he/she will undergo his/her old age with unhappiness. Unhappiness reflects the failure of a person in his/her life (Fromm E., 2005).

Remarriage in the elderly is also one of the efforts to achieve happiness. They are lonely due to loss of spouse and expect to live much happier with the presence of a new partner. Not only do elderly men and women differ in the number of remarriage, but also different in wanting a new spouse. Men who want a new spouse are more than 60% while the elderly women are less than 20%.

Davidson (2002) said that there are three reasons for a person to get a new partner:

- (1) The availability of people who can be his/her partner.
- (2) The feasibility of a relationship.
- (3) The appeal of friendship or togetherness (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Remarriage>).

According to Trivedi and Sareen (2009), there are two reasons why the elderly women more likely to survive to live without a spouse, namely:

(1) Elderly women have a higher and longer life expectancy. Women are also usually married to older men. Thus, the number of widow is higher than the widower (Lee, 2002).

(2) Death of a spouse is the worst life event after the death of a child (Bennett et al., 2005). Disruption and trauma that accompanies the death of spouse is higher in women than men (Fasoranti et al., 2007).

Life of a widow or widower will face economic problems, social and psychological in his/her life, especially after the death of a spouse. The main issue is economic hardship. When the husband is unemployed, income will decrease and family life will be disrupted (Fasoranti et al., 2007).

3. Methods

This research is a descriptive qualitative case study. Data collection tool which is used in the form of an interview guide that will be given to all subjects. The subjects were elderly people who remarried. Three of them were elderly men, while the other two were elderly women. The subjects of this research live in Central Java who are familiar with the researcher.

4. Results

Table 1 Subjects

Subject	Age	Sex	Occupation	Age and Spouse's Status
1	68 years	Male	Retired Soldier	42 year virgin
2	72 years	Male	Retired Police	45 year virgin
3	75 years	Male	Retired Government Employee	40 year widower
4	65 years	Female	Unemployment	67 year widow
5	67 years	Female	Unemployment	68 year widow

4.1 Subject 1

The first subject was a 68-year-old man, a retired soldier. He had been left by his wife who died 3 years ago and have two children who are all married. A year ago he married a 42-year-old virgin who had been living as a tailor. After married, she was lived with her husband and no longer feeling stressful.

Subject had two children who are all married and live in different cities. After two years living alone in his house since the death of his wife, subject often spends his time day dreaming. He thought brought of the days in his life with his wife, so this time made him spending a lot of time without doing any activities. Since he retired from his regular duties as a soldier, he always followed wherever his wife went even to the market. The

neighbours often comment on their intimate like *mimi lan mintuno* (*Mimi lan mintuno* is the Javanese for so far an unseparatable couple). His togetherness with his first wife is also frequently commented them like a new couple, wherever go always together. It did not make him feel embarrassed, but he was actually proud of his wife for proving her loyalty that never changed until they were old as parents.

After the death of his first wife, he felt there was no activities that he wanted to do, so sometimes he was just lying in his room while watching TV for hours without feeling hungry, although he has not eaten all day. Subject frequently had sickness and felt neglected. When his daughter visited, she recommended that her father had to get married again because his children live in another city who cannot visit him too often. When his son came home to see him, he gave the same advice like his sister. After further thinking until the year, he began to think about who can replace the role of his wife. There are some considerations before the subject making decision, e.g.:

- (1) Subject loves his two children from his last marriage and does not want to have any more children
- (2) Subject wants his next wife to be still fairly young age in order to take a good care of him.

Having discussed it with his two children, then they agreed to work together to find a new wife for their father. Choice then fell to a 42-year-old virgin tailor. She is the second of seven siblings whose her five sisters are married. Finally, they proposed and brought her to stay as the wife of the subject and to be the mother to his children.

From interviews with the new wife of the subject, it can be concluded that she wanted to marry a widower whose age is much older and almost the same age as his father for several reasons, e.g.:

- (1) During this time she lived as a child who constantly live with her parents. She was actually jealous of her sisters who left the house settle down. This made her accept the subject's proposal and hoped to get out of his parents' house.
- (2) Working as a tailor at her parents' house, was just enough to fulfill her day-to-day life and partly also to help her parents who are increasingly frail. She was puzzled on how to be self-sufficient when she is no longer able to sew later. As the wife of the subject, she will receive a pension in old age though later her husband will not be there anymore.
- (3) She saw the children of subject have good performance. If she expected a child of her presence seems impossible considering her age is not young anymore. She should be able to be a good mother to her step children, to treat them if their father will no longer exist.
- (4) She has found a peaceful life. Her fear of the lonely life in her old age will not haunt her anymore.

4.2 Subject 2

The second subject is a retired police officer who was 72 years. Two years ago his wife died and all of his 8 children are married. Only the second daughter who lives at home is with the subject. Because her daughter is quite busy with her family life, the subject's children agreed to find a woman to be their father's wife. When they presented this arrangement to the subject, he was willing to marry again provided that:

- (1) She was a single woman who had never been married. Subjects did not want to marry a widow woman because he feared of being compared to her ex-husband. He realized his physical weakness so he does not want to be treated badly.
- (2) She was a 40–50 year old virgin so there is no more desire to have children. Subject was aware that he had a lot of flaws.
- (3) If there had been a girl who was eligible and willing to be his wife, his children would have to let go of

the home to be passed on to his next wife. Subject wanted to present his house for his next wife who is willing to sacrifice her life and take care of him.

Hearing these requirements, the children had to approve it because, in fact, none of them were able to take care of their father who needs to be supported even for daily activities such as eating and bathing. Then they spread the requirements to family and relatives of the subject. Not unexpectedly, subject's friend who had a girl suitable to that requirements. He gave his daughter to marry the subject even though he will lose the chance to have grandchildren.

When researcher had the opportunity to meet her, she said that she was willing to marry the subject not because her parents' coercion. She was already quite old as a virgin and was not sure anymore whether she will be able to find a soul mate or spouse except the subject. She also felt encouraged that she has the freedom to organize her own household and receive a pension every month. She said that she felt happier than before when she was not married and lived with her parents, so she never had the right to manage her own finances. She just spent her days doing various household tasks without having any power. Now, she can set the time and finances to buy the clothes and cosmetic equipment. She got more opportunities to organize herself and her life.

4.3 Subject 3

The third subject is a retired government employee who has five children and all of them are married. A year ago his wife died so that the subject had to lived alone in his large house. Seeing her old father living alone, one of his daughter asked her first child to accompany him. Because his grandson was a child, he should not live with his grandfather. Their parents allow them to stay with their grandfather during the holidays. However, every day they should visit and send food to their father and their son who accompanies his grandfather. This is a particularly troublesome because they had to take care of two other children too. But they also realized that their father did not have other children who lived in the same town.

With the fact that, every day, his daughter and her family should take care of him, the subject proposed to get married again so he can take care of himself. Subject said that behind his house there was a young widow with one son who was a toddler. Subject saw that her life was destitute and unworthy. For that reason he asked a permission to his children to marry that woman. Subject also said that he will distribute all of his assets fairly that one part will be bequeathed to his wife. The proposal was approved by all of his children so he divided all of his possessions to 6 parts. With his treasure, the subject wooed the young woman who was his neighbor to be his wife.

Researcher tried to find data about why the young woman would accept the subject's proposal. She said that when she was a child she had known the subject. She also knew his wife and his children because she lives not far from the subject. She said that subject is a rich man so that all of his children could go to school. She could not go to school because her parents could not afford it. Now, she has to live alone after the death of her husband and has to take care of a boy who was left behind. With only primary school education, she can only work as the messengers of her neighbors who need her services. She is also worried that she will not be able to send her son to school, so that someday he will be miserability just like herself. Being the subject's wife, she wished would have enough money for her son's education. She was sure that she was not going to have another child as the wife of the subject. She knew that the subject just wanted her to take care of him and served his daily needs. She also knew that the subject was actually no longer able to perform his function as a husband. For the sake of her son's future, she was willing to be the wife of the subject .

4.4 Subject 4

Subject 4 is a 65 year woman. The subject has two sons. It was been almost 5 years, subject was still as widower because in that time none of her children were married. They have worked so the subject lives sufficiently. A year after the death of her husband, her first son got married and left home to live with his wife. Two years later, her second son got married and then left the house with his wife too. Subject lived alone in her house so much time was spent for visiting her neighbors or going to the mosque at prayer time. Subjects did not have another activity though she has a close relationship with her neighbors. Because of that, the neighbors, then, concluded that subject was lonely. One day, a neighbor asked if subject still wanted to get married again. She was surprised and then, asked why she was asked by such question. The neighbor told that her husband has a friend who was a widow and lived alone in his house, similar to her. He had only one child that had married and lived in his own house. The neighbour's husband often worship in the same mosque with the subject so that he and his friend often see her. His friend then asked who the subject was and where she lived. Her husband later concluded that his friend was interested in the subject. Her husband then asked her to approach the subject and ask if the subject still wanted to get married again. Subject replied that, in fact, she wanted to have a friend to stay with her so she does not feel lonely. The neighbor then invited the subject to come to her house and her husband invited his friend to come to his house too. At her neighbor's house, was the subject acquainted with her second husband.

At the beginning of her second marriage, the subject was very happy. The lonely years she has spent was gone. Now, there is a friend who always accompanies her. Sometimes the subject lived in her own home and her husband opted to stay in her house. At other times, they both lived in her husband's house. But over time it causes them to quarrel. Subject wanted to stay in her own home to meet her neighbors, but her husband also wanted the same thing. If they cannot reach a solution, so, then, they stay in their homes. If they miss each other, then her husband will come to her house or she will go to her husband's house. Whatever happens, the subject lives with her husband happier than living alone.

4.5 Subject 5

The fifth subject is an elderly 67-year-old woman. A year ago the subject heard the news that her ex-boyfriend when she was in college, had a stroke. She was a widower since his husband had died two years before. Her ex-boyfriend was also a widow since his wife had died 7 months ago. Along with some of their colleagues, the subject visited her ex-boyfriend who was being treated in hospital. Subject was happy to meet the man she had loved once again. Since then, the subject often met him even after he came home from the hospital. The subject was very concerned with the state of her ex-boyfriend while still feeling a sense of love in her heart. After months, his health condition did not show any improvement. Despite being able to speak clearly enough, but he still had to sit in a wheelchair. Eventually, her ex-boyfriend proposed her to be his wife. He also realized that he is already handicap so that he is also advised her not accept his proposal .

Subject had few days to consider his proposal. Subject then told it to their children. Subject said that if the children had agree, she would have married again with her ex-boyfriend who, at that moment, had a stroke. Her children asked why their mother would marry a man in a state of stroke. Subject then explained that he was her ex-boyfriend. Subject left him because their grandfather married her to another man of their choice. Subject wanted to make redeem of her fault by accepting his proposal to be his wife even though he was in a state of stroke. Subject wanted to take care of him and show her affection while he was still alive. Although her husband had a stroke, the subject did not feel disappointed. She was happy because she was given a chance to atone for her

sins in the past. She felt that it's time for her to show that her love was really sincere and accepted him just the way he was. Although she had married another man, it did not mean her love had faded. Subject only wanted to show her devotion to her parents so that she was indulged to marry the man who had been chosen. He was very happy to hear those words and they wanted a new love that could unite them for a long time. They wanted to spend the rest of their life together, even hoping that, someday, they, too, will die together, as well.

5. Result: Theme Analysis

From the data collected, it can be found on several themes and each theme there is a difference between elderly men and elderly women among others :

5.1 The Reason of Remarriage

In elderly men, the reason for remarriage is to get a new partner who can take care of them in their old age well and still respect them despite their flaws and weaknesses. In elderly women, the reasons of getting remarried is to have a couple who always accompany them through their days, to look for a friend to share so they do not feel lonely .

5.2 The Spouse's Criteria

In elderly men, couples are expected to have criteria, e.g.:

- (1) Young woman
- (2) Not married or widower who does not have a lot of children
- (3) Have no desire to have a child from their marriage.
- (4) Willing to take care of them, serve their daily needs and still respect them despite their flaws and weaknesses.

In elderly women, the expected criteria are:

- (1) The elderly man is older than them.
- (2) Always accompanied them wherever and whenever they are
- (3) Willing to accept them and their children.

5.3 Happiness

Elderly men feel happier in their life after having remarried because they feel calm. They do not worry about being neglected because they have wife who always accompany them and help them whenever they need. They also do not need to be a hassle to their children and grandchildren so that their life do not depend on others. They still have the authority as a head of the family so that their dignity is maintained and not abused due to their weaknesses.

Elderly women also feel happier because they have found a friend who always accompany them wherever they go. They will also be busy with their role as a wife so that their days will be passed with more meaningful and free from loneliness. They have a friend to share their problems with and happiness. Togetherness with their husband is a salient thing to their happiness in life.

5.4 Hope

The presence of a new wife in their life, have made elderly men feel more optimistic in their life ahead because they will not be neglected and there is a woman who will be ready to help them if they had a bad mood

and experienced things that are not fun. They will also feel proud that there is a still young woman who is willing to accompany them in elderly life.

The presence of a new husband for elderly women, have made their life more meaningful. They did not need to seek out activities outside their home. There is a man who always accompanied them so they have someone for sharing. They are also optimistic and have not fear in their life ahead because they will never live alone.

6. Discussion

Remarriage in the elderly is also one of the efforts to achieve happiness. They feel lonely due to the lost of spouse and expect to live much happier with the presence of a new partner. A feeling of happiness is a testament to a person's success in life and vice versa. If the elderly people are not likely to be able to accept or reject the changes in their life, they will undergo their old age with unhappiness. Happiness is to be undertaken, especially in the elderly because this period is the epilogue in human life span. The elderly is the last chance to be able to achieve happiness in life.

From the data obtained, it has shown that all subjects felt happier after remarriage than when living alone. The elderly men feel more secure in their lives because every day, there is a woman who serves all their needs. They also feel more calm because they are no longer a hassle to their children and do not need their children to take care of them. The latest wives of the elderly men were much younger than themselves and came from a low socio-economic status, so they will respect them despite having many flaws, take care of and serve them sincerely. The wives had not to be rude and said painful words. Although they were no longer able to perform their functions properly, their wives accepted it as their goals were to get their inheritance. Their wives are willing to sacrifice themselves to serve their husband because they will inherit their husband property after their death. The wives felt that their lives would be more secure and do not need to depend on other people soon after the death of their husband. That is what causes the elderly, especially men who have a pension guarantee, it's easier to get a new partner who is much younger and wants to take the good care of them in a full courtesy.

This is in contrast to the mostly elderly women who do not remarry after the death of their husband. The elderly men are generally looking for young couples, while the elderly women, it almost none of them remarried to a much younger partner. Thus, the opportunities for elderly women to remarry are smaller than elderly men. The elderly women are not willing to remarry younger men even if they were suitable for them. They need togetherness with their husband over anything else. According to Davidson (2002) that the appeal of friendship or togetherness is one of the three reasons for a person to get a new partner (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Remarriage>).

Although they are elderly people and have some flaws, they are lonely without someone who always accompanies them. If they only need someone to take care of them, they will call a nurse. In fact, they need someone who always accompany them in a deep affection and empathy. That is why they choose to have a relationship in a marital status because they also want to have someone who loves them and gains a psychological satisfaction in that relationship, which will last a lifetime, which will forever. According to the theory, that individuals will feel a joy when finding satisfaction in marital relationships. The history of success in a marriage is influenced by whether a married couple is able to feel the satisfaction of marital relationships which they live for.

7. Conclusion

Marriage is the relationship that almost all people, especially in Indonesia, need because only in that relationship they can feel calm and happy in their life. Elderly people also need such relationship, but their flaws frequently inhibit them to get married again. That is why remarriage rate in elderly people is relatively low.

This research shows that remarriage has made elderly people feel happier than before when they live alone. It is suggested that if elderly people do not want to feel loneliness, remarriage may be the solution that can be chosen.

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