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Analysis of Husband-Wife Interaction, Financial Vulnerability, and Objective Well-Being in Sandwich Generation Families

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ABSTRACT

In sandwich-generation families, there are individuals who simultaneously support the financial needs of children and the elderly. This is a quantitative study with a cross-sectional design using an online survey as a data collectiontool. The study was conducted in Indonesia with a research population including sandwich families living in onehouse consisting of three generations: husband and wife, children, and elderly. The research sample consisted of working wives from the sandwich generation. Of the 223 respondents who participated, 106 met the criteria for further analyses. The results show that spousal education and income play important roles in reducing financial vulnerability and improving family welfare. Harmonious interactions between husbands and wives can reduce financial vulnerability andimprove family welfare. Conversely, high financial vulnerability can disrupt a family's objective welfare if not properly managed. The conclusion is the need to improve financial literacy, create a good financial management strategy, and maintain open and harmonious communication between husband and wife to reduce financial vulnerability and improve the welfare of sandwich-generation families.

Keywords: Sandwich Generation, Husband and Wife Interaction, Financial Vulnerability, Family Objective Wellbeing,

INTRODUCTION

In a sandwich-generation family, there are individuals who simultaneously support the financial and emotional needs of children, parents, or in-laws. The rising cost of living has left many families in need ofan additional income. Through work, housewives can help meet the financial needs of the family, such as children's education, health care, and daily necessities. Working wives of sandwich-generation families playa crucial role not only as financial providers but also as intergenerational connectors. Marsudi et al. (2023) argued that the wife's role is influential in improving the family economy, so that with an increase in the familyeconomy, family welfare increases. The number of working mothers in Indonesia has increased where according to data from the Central Statistics Agency (BPS) in February 2024, the female labor forceparticipation rate reached 55.41 percent, which shows an increase of about 1 percent compared to the previous year.

The harmonious quality of interaction between husband and wife makes financial management good, so that it will improve family welfare (Herawati et al., 2021; Nadhifah et al., 2021). Sandwich-generation families often experience financial vulnerability because they are trapped between household income, debt, and simultaneous household consumption, such as children's education costs and parents' health care, which will have a negative impact on objective welfare (Abid & Shafiai, 2018; Haqiqi & Subroto, 2021; Kawalod & Tewal, 2020; Lusardi, 2019; Mustika et al., 2023). For working wives, financial contributions not only bring economic stability to the family but also create role conflicts and additional stress (Hosseini & Homayuni, 2022).

Sandwich generation families with working wives should have harmonious and supportive interactions between husbands and wives to improve effective financial management to reduce financial vulnerability, which can affect the objective welfare of the family (Carr et al., 2014; Margelisch et al., 2017; Nadhifah et al., 2021; Tyas & Herawati, 2017). Conversely, conflicts can exacerbate financial problems and reduce family well-being. Financial vulnerability also increases pressure within the family, especially when it comes to

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supporting both children and parents, or in-laws. Based on a BPS report, the number of elderly people in Indonesia by 2023 was recorded at 11.75

percent of the total population, and is expected to continue to increase as life expectancy increases. Elderly people can increase financial vulnerability for sandwich generation families because of high healthcare costs, and the daily living needs of the elderly are borne by children who also pay for education andgrandchildren's needs (Maresova et al., 2019). In addition, financial stress due to multiple responsibilities canalso reduce financial well-being and worsen the economic conditions of sandwich-generation families (Rahman et al., 2021). However, the elderly play an important role in *sandwich* generation families. According to research by Silverstein & Giarrusso (2010), many elderly people feel thatcontributing to the care of grandchildren increases their life satisfaction, even though it also increases the burden of elderly tasks.

Financial vulnerability occurs when shocks occur in the economy or in finance. If the household already shows some symptoms of financial vulnerability, such as difficulty in reaching the end of the month or inability to deal with unexpected expenses, it will affect family resilience (Anderloni et al., 2012; Daud et al., 2019; Mustika et al., 2023). Financial vulnerability has various impacts on families, such as stress due to financial difficulties and increased risk of depression (Guan et al., 2022). In a family environment in which financial stress causes conflict, it can reduce the quality of relationships between family members (Zhou & Zheng, 2022). Additionally, financial limitations can hinder access to education for children, which is important for the future (Rahman et al., 2021).

This study used the functional structural theory approach. According to Puspitawati (2009), functional structural theory views a social system as a balanced, harmonious, and sustainable entity. The social structure consists of components that work in an organized manner in each part. The functional structural approach focuses on the balance and stability of the family system, as well as the stability of the social system in society.

Previous studies on good husband-and-wife interactions have shown that good marital satisfaction can improve family health and well-being (Carr et al., 2014; Herawati et al., 2021; Margelisch et al., 2017; Tyas & Herawati, 2017). Fostering harmonious family relationships requires strategies such aslistening with empathy, speaking honestly and openly, and finding solutions, which are vital in overcoming family conflicts, especially in challenging sandwich-generation families (Anjani, 2024). Households that show symptoms of financial vulnerability are not only influenced by income factors but can also be influenced by behavioral characteristics related to financial and socio-economic factors (Noerhidajati et al., 2021). In contrast to previous studies, which examined them separately, this study examined all these variables in a single research framework. In sandwich-generation families, husband-and-wife interactions, financial vulnerability, and objective family welfare are intertwined in a complex relationship. Harmonious interactions between husband and wife can reduce financial vulnerability, which in turn can improve the family's objective well-being. Conversely, high financial vulnerability can disrupt welfare if not properly managed. This study aims to 1) identify family characteristics, husband-wife interaction, financial vulnerability, and objective well-being of sandwich-generation families, and 2) analyze the influence of husband-wife interaction and financial vulnerability on the objective well-being of sandwich-generation families.

METHOD

This research is a quantitative study with a cross-sectional study design that uses an online survey through Google Forms as a data collection tool. The study was conducted in Indonesia at a single point, without monitoring changes over time (Hunziker & Blankenagel, 2024). The study population included sandwich families consisting of three generations: husbands, wives, children, and the elderly. The research sample consisted of sandwich families, and the respondents were working wives who were part of the sandwich generation who completed the questionnaire. The unit of analysis in this study wasa sandwich-type family. The selection of respondents was carried out using a voluntary sampling technique based on their willingness to participate in the study. Of the 223 respondents who participated, only 106 met the criteria for further analyses.

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Primary and secondary data were collected in this study. Primary data were obtained through questionnaires filled out by respondents, including respondent characteristics, elderly characteristics, husband-and-wife interactions, financial vulnerability, and objective family welfare. Secondary data were obtained from various sources, including books, journals, and articles. Data were collected using a structured questionnaire that was tested for its reliability and validity. The online questionnaire was distributed through Google Forms using social media, and distributed directly to the respondents. The questionnaire was divided into three parts: screening to ensure that respondents fit the research criteria, profiling to determine the respondents' profile, and main questions related to the research variables.

The spousal interaction variable uses a measuring instrument adapted from Chuang (2005), which is the result of a modified questionnaire in which there are 29 questions with a Cronbach's alpha value of 0.908. The answer options included 1 = never, 2 = sometimes, 3 = often, and 4 = always. The financial vulnerability variable used was a modified questionnaire from Sabri et al.. al. (2021) and Anderloni et al. (2012). The financial vulnerability questionnaire consisted of 20 questions divided into four dimensions, namely income, savings, expenses, and loans, with a *Cronbach's alpha* value of 0.955. The answer options were 1= very safe, 2= safe, 3= less safe, and 4= not safe. The objective family welfare variable referred to Delhey et al. (2001) and was modified into 30 question items with a *Cronbach's alpha* value of 0.791. The answer options include 1= will not have for some reason, 2= Not yet able to have/do, and 3= Already able to have/do.

The total scores of the variables of husband-and-wife interaction, financial vulnerability, and objective family welfare were transformed into index scores categorized based on Bloom's cut-off point, namely the low category (<60), the medium category (60-80), and the high category (>80). The financial vulnerability variable uses the Consumer Financial Vulnerability Index (2023) indicator, which is categorized into low (<40), medium (40-60) and high (>60) categories.

RESEARCH RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Family Characteristics

The majority of couples were in the early adult age category (19-40 years), with 70.8% husbands and 84.9% wives. The average age of husbands was 36.56 years while that of wives was 33.25 years. In terms of education, most couples have a fairly high level of education. None of the couples had doctoral degrees. The range of years of education for husbands and wives was the same, from six to 18 years. The average number of years of education for husbands was 13.36 years while wives had an average of 13.67 years.

Table 1. Percentage distribution of family characteristics

Category	Husband	Wife
	%	%
Age		
1=Early adulthold (19-40)	70.8	84.9
2=Middle adult (41-60)	29.2	15.1
3=Late adult (≥ 60)	0.0	0
Total	100	100
Minimum-maksimum	22-55	21-51
Mean±Std.Dev	36.56±7.494	33.25±6.788
Education		
1=Elementary school graduate (6 years)	4.7	5.7
2=Junior high school graduate (9 years)	7.5	6.6
3=Senior high school (12 years)	43.4	34.0
4=Degree D4/S1 (16 year)	39.6	50.9
5=Master's degree (18 tahun)	4.7	2.8

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6=Doctoral degree	0	0
Total	100	100
Minimum-maksimum	6-18	6-18
Mean±Std.Dev	13.36 ± 2.941	13.67 ± 3.017

Source: *Author's calculations.*

The husband's income showed that almost half of the respondents had an income between Rp 2.000.000 and Rp6.000.000 per month. Half of the wife respondents (50.9%) had an income of less than Rp 2.000.000 per month, while the rest were spread across a higher range. The source of income for the elderlyshows that more than a quarter of the elderly (33%) receive gifts from children.

Table 2. Percentage distribution of income

Category	%
Husband's income	
1. ≤ IDR 2.000.000 / month	22.6
2. IDR 2.000.001 - IDR 4.000.000 / month	25.5
3. IDR 4.000.001 – IDR 6.000.000 / month	22.6
4. IDR 6.000.001 – IDR 8.000.000 / month	13.2
5. ≥ IDR 8.000.001 / month	16.0
Total	100
Wife's income	
1. ≤ IDR 2.000.000 / month	50.9
2. IDR 2.000.001 - IDR 4.000.000 / month	16.0
3. IDR 4.000.001 – IDR 6.000.000 / month	13.2
4. IDR 6.000.001 – IDR 8.000.000 / month	8.5
5. ≥ IDR 8.000.001 / month	11.3
Total	100
Elderly income sources	
1. No income	26.4
2. Jobs	20.8
3. Retired	19.8
4. Gifts from children	33.0
Total	100

Source: *Author's calculations.*

Table 3. shows that almost half of the respondents (44.3%) save up to 10 percent of income. However, in terms of debt, more than half of the respondents (56.6%) have debts that range up to 20 percent of income. The majority of respondents (94.3%) have health insurance by having a Health Social Security Organizing Agency (BPJS Kesehatan). Regarding financial status, almost half of respondents (43.4%) have assets thatare greater than debts while for income sufficiency more than a quarter of respondents (39.6%) feel that income is only sufficient for major needs.

Table 3. Distribution of data by percentage of savings, percentage of debt, debt ownership, BPJS ownership, and financial status

Category	%
Saving to income percentage	
1. 0%	26.4
2. 1% - 10%	44.3
3. 11% - 20%	16.0
4. >20%	13.2
Total	100

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Debt to income percentage	
1. 0%	13.2
2. 1% - 20%	56.6
3. 21% - 40%	18.9
4. > 40%	11.3
Total	100
Debt ownership	
Yes	86.8
No	13.2
Total	100

Source: *Author's calculations.*

Table 3. Distribution of data by percentage of savings, percentage of debt, debt ownership, BPJS ownership, and financial status (*continue*)

Category	%
BPJS Ownership	
Yes	94.3
No	5.7
Total	100
Financial status	
1. asset are less than debt	22.6
2. asset equal to debt	34.0
3. asset are greater than debt	43.4
Total	100
Adequacy of current income	
1. insufficient	3.8
2. only meet big needs	39.6
3. enough for most things	38.7
4. enough to buy all the things you want and have some left over for saving	17.9
Total	100

Source: *Author's calculations.*

Table 4. shows that most of the respondents (86.8%) studied had loans with vehicle loans being the most common type of loan at around 31 percent and only less than a quarter (14%) of the respondents had no loans at all. In terms of asset ownership, more than half of the respondents (67.9%) own less than three types of assets with the most common types of assets being vehicles, houses, and jewelry. Vehicle and personal loans are the most common types of loans made by respondents while vehicles are the most common type of asset owned by respondents. Only a small proportion of respondents had no loans or assets, indicating the high level of involvement in financing and asset ownership of respondents in the study.

Table 4. Distribution of data by percentage of loans and debts

Category	%
Loan ownership	
1. No loan	13.2
2. Have loan	86.8
Total	100
Asset ownership	
1. No assets	6.6
2. Has < 3 type of asset	67.9
3. Has > 3 type of aset	25.5
Total	100

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Debt Type	
1. Business/enterprise	11
2. Investment	5
3. Credit card	16
4. Education	12
5. Electronic installment	13
6. Personal	25
7. Vehicle	31
8. Home Mortgage	22
9. Cooperative	2
10. KUR/KTA	3
11. Pawnshop	1
12. No debt	14

Source: *Author's calculations.*

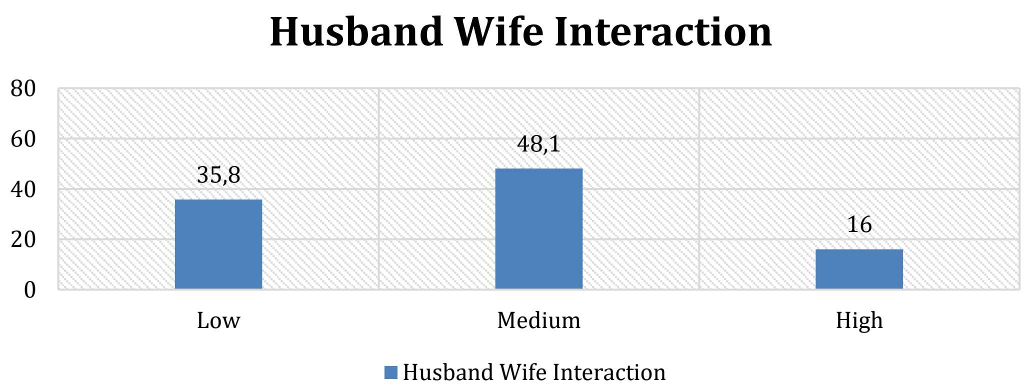
Table 4. Distribution of data by percentage of loans and debts *(continue)*

Asset Type	**n**
1. House/apartment	34
2. Rent	11
3. Vehicle	78
4. Land property	19
5. Agricultural land/field	10
6. Livestock	2
7. Cash	32
8. Jewelry	33
9. Foreign currency	2
10. Gold	31
11. Electronik	1
12. Investment	9
13. No Asset	7

Source: *Author's calculations.*

Husband and Wife Interaction

Based on Figure 1, wives' assessment of their husbands shows that the majority of wives rated their husbands in the medium category, with a percentage of 48.1 percent. A total of 35.8 per cent of wives gave low ratings to their husbands (with scores below 60), while 16 per cent gave high ratings (with scores above 80).



Graph 1. Distribution of husband wife interaction
source: primary data processed

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Wives' ratings of their husbands ranged from 34.48 to 95.40, indicating considerable variation in how wives rated their husbands. The mean of the wives' ratings of their husbands was 65.94 with a standard deviation of
12.61 indicating that wives' ratings tended to be in the moderate range.

Table 5. Distribution of data based on minimum and maximum values, mean and standard deviation of husband-wife interaction

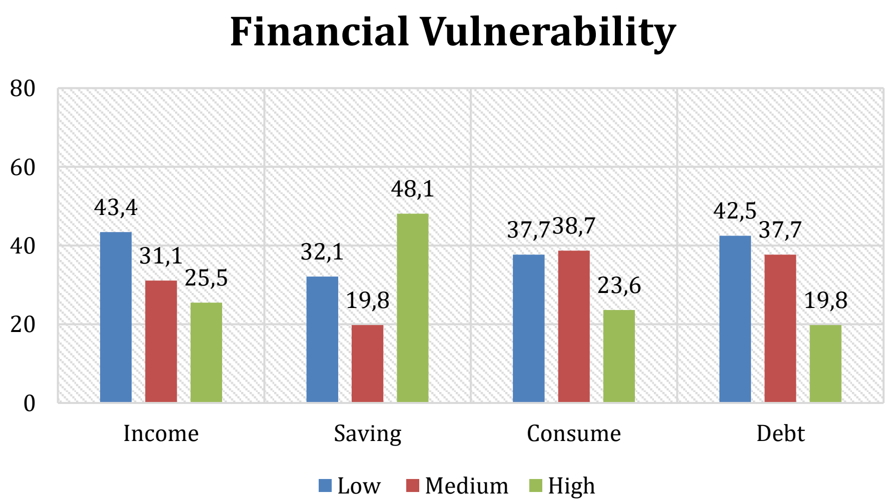
Category	Husband wife interaction %
Min-Maks	34,48-95,40
Mean ± SD	65,94 ± 12,61

Source: *Author's calculations.*

Financial Vulnerability

Based on available data, the financial vulnerability analysis shows variations in the level of vulnerability across different financial dimensions. In terms of income, almost half of the respondents (43.4%) werein the low vulnerability category, while the rest were in the significant income vulnerability category. Vulnerability to savings shows that almost half of the respondents (48.1%) were in the high category, indicating that many of them did not have adequate savings to deal with emergencies or unexpected expenses.In terms of consumption or spending, the distribution of vulnerability was fairly even, with 37.7 percent of respondents in the low category, 38.7 percent in the medium category, and 23.6 percent in the high category. Vulnerability to debt showed that almost half of the respondents (42.5%) were in the low category, indicating good debt management.

Overall, total financial vulnerability shows that 38.7% of respondents are in the medium category, while 32.1% are in the low category and 29.2% are in the high category. The average financial vulnerability index is:
48.08 with a standard deviation of 18.74, reflecting the varying levels of financial vulnerability among respondents.



Graph 2. Distribution of Financial Vulnerability categories by dimension
source: primary data processed

Table 6 shows that the level of financial vulnerability for savings has an average index of 53.93 with a standard deviation of 21.75 which explains that savings are a greater source of vulnerability than income. This reflects

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that the overall level of financial vulnerability of respondents is at a moderate level where savings show a slightly higher vulnerability than income, consumption and debt or loan.

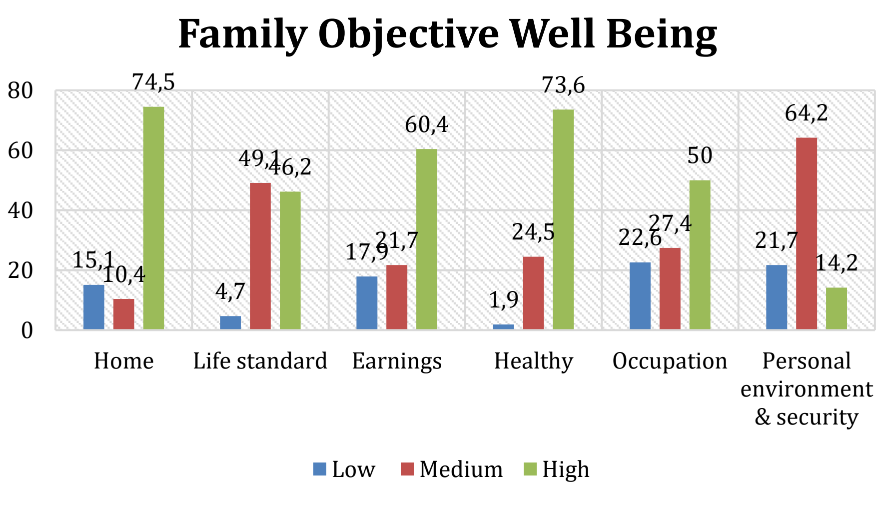
Table 6. Data distribution based on minimum and maximum values, mean and standard deviation of financial vulnerability

Dimensions of Financial Vulnerability	Minimum-Maksimum index	Mean Index ± Standard Deviation
Revenue	0 – 100	46,01 ± 18,97
Saving	0 – 100	53,93 ± 21,75
Consumption / spending	0 – 100	46,69 ± 20,85
Payable / loan	0 - 100	43,78 ± 20,38
Total financial vulnerability	0 – 98,3	48,08 ± 18,74

Source: *Author's calculations.*

Objective well-being of the family

Figure 3 shows that most respondents have a high level of welfare in several dimensions. Three-quarters of the respondents were in the high welfare category for the housing dimension (74.5%) and income dimension (73.6%). Almost half of the respondents were in the high (46.2%) and medium (49%) categories for the standard of living. More than half of the respondents had a high income (60.4%) and security (64.2%). Regarding the employment dimension, 50% of the respondents (50%) were in the high category, indicating a significant difference in employment-related welfare.



Graph 3. Distribution of Family objective well being categories by dimension
source: primary data processed

The objective welfare of the family is at an average index of 79.08 with a standard deviation of 10.09, which shows that respondents have a relatively good level of welfare. Nevertheless, there are several dimensions, such as income, employment, and security that require more attention to improve overall welfare.

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Table 7. Distribution of data based on minimum and maximum values, mean and standard deviation of objective family welfare

Dimensions of Family Objective Well-being	Minimum-Maksimum Index	Mean Index ± Standard Deviation
House dimensions	25 - 100	84,11 ± 16,96
Standard of living dimensions	42,85 – 100	81,53 ± 12,88
Income dimensions	0 – 100	79,40 ± 22,48
Dimensions of Health	50 – 100	89,03 ± 11,91
Job dimensions	0 – 100	70,91 ± 24,67
Dimension personal environment and safety	28,57 - 100	70,01 ± 13,09
Total family objective well-being	51,67-100	79,08 ± 10,09

Source: *Author's calculations.*

Test the relationship of family characteristic with variable

Based on the correlation test table, it can be concluded that there are significant relationships between various family characteristic variables and husband-wife interaction, financial vulnerability, and objective family welfare. The husband's education has a positive correlation with spousal interaction (0.034) and objective well-being (0.349*) and a significant negative correlation with financial vulnerability (-0.423**). The wife's education also showed a similar pattern, with a significant positive correlation with objective well-being (0.366**) and a significant negative correlation with financial vulnerability (-0.385**), but no significant relationship with spousal interaction (-0.042).

Both husbands and wives' incomes have a significant impact on financial vulnerability and objective well-being. Husbands' income has a significant negative correlation with financial vulnerability (- 0.528**) and a significant positive correlation with objective well-being (0.477*), while wives' income also shows a significant negative correlation with financial vulnerability (-0.477*) and a significant positive correlation with objective well-being (0.382**). However, there was no significant relationship between the husband's or wife's income and spousal interactions. However, the relationship between spousal interaction and objective well-being was not significant (0.173), whereas financial vulnerability had a significant negative correlation with family objective well-being (-0.695**).

Table 8. Test table of the effect of family characteristics, husband-wife interaction, financial vulnerability and objective family well-being

Variabel	Husband wife interaction	Financial vulnerability	Objective family well-being
Family Characteristics			
Husband's education	0.034	**-0.423****	**0.349***
Wife's education	-0.042	**-0.385****	**0.366****
Husband's income	-0.075	**-0.528****	**0.477***
Wife's income	-0.106	**-0.477***	**0.382****
Husband and wife interaction	1.000	**-0.254****	0.173
Financial vulnerability	**-0.254****	1.000	**-0.695****
Objective family well-being	0.173	**-0.695****	1.000

Source: *Author's calculations.*

The conceptual diagram shows the relationship between family characteristics, husband-wife interaction, financial vulnerability, and objective family welfare. The family characteristics factor, which consists of husband's age, wife's age, husband's income, and wife's income, has a significant influence on financial vulnerability (FV) and objective family welfare (OFW). This husband-wife interaction (HWI) affects financial vulnerability (FV), which consists of four dimensions (income, saving, consumption, and debt). Financial vulnerability (FV) affects a family's objective well-being (OWF), which consists of six dimensions (home, life

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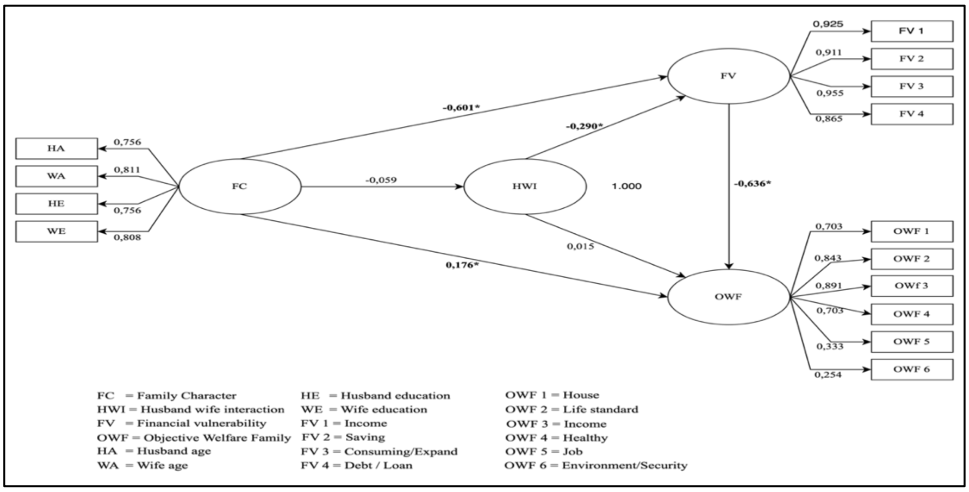
standard, earnings, health, occupation, personal environment, and security).



Graph 4. Model of the influence of family characteristics, husband and wife interaction, financial vulnerability on the objective family well-being
source: primary data processed

Based on the analysis of the direct, indirect, and total effect tables, it was found that spousal interaction has a significant effect on reducing financial vulnerability, with a direct effect of - 0.290. Although spousal interaction does not show a significant direct effect on the objective welfare of the family (0.015), there is a significant indirect effect through other variables of 0.184, which makes the total effect significant, with a value of 0.200.

Family characteristics do not have a significant effect on spousal interactions, either directly or in total (−0.059). However, family characteristics have a significant direct effect on reducing financial vulnerability -0.601, and a total effect of -0.583, although the indirect effect is not significant (0.017). In addition, family characteristics have a significant effect on the objective welfare of the family, with a direct effect of 0.176, and an indirect effect of 0.370, resulting in a total effect of 0.546. This shows that certain aspects of family characteristics are influential in improving family welfare. Financial vulnerability showed a significant and negative direct effect on the objective well-being of families, with a value of -0.636.

Table 9. Factors affecting the objective family well-being

Direction of influence	Direct effect	Indirect effect	Total effect
Husband wife interaction → financial vulnerability	**-0,290***		**-0,290***
Husband wife interaction → objective family well-being	0,015	**0,184***	**0,200***
Family characteristics → Husband wife interaction	-0,059		-0,059
Family characteristics → financial vulnerability	**-0,601***	0,017	**-0,583***
Family characteristics → objective family well-being	**0,176***	**0,370***	0,546*
Financial vulnerability → objective family well-being	**-0,636***		**-0,636***

Source: *Author's calculations.*

The results showed that married couples are in early adulthood with a minimum high school education. Wives tend to be younger and have a slightly higher level of education than husbands do. The husband's income is more spread across various ranges as well as the wife's income, where half of the respondents have an income between IDR 2,000,000 and IDR 8,000,000. This is in line with the statement that individuals with higher education tend to get better jobs with higher salaries, help reduce financial fragility, and affect family welfare.

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Meanwhile, the elderly rely heavily on family support, especially from their children, as the main source of income because low economic levels make them unable to support themselves (Septiarini et al., 2019).

Savings of up to 10% of income were set aside by respondents, while debts held by most respondents ranged up to 20% of income. A high level of health insurance ownership is evident from the majority of respondents' BPJS ownership, and assets are considered equal to or greater than debts. Income was considered sufficient to meet the basic needs of most respondents. While there are variations in the ability to save and manage debt, the financial condition of the respondents is considered quite stable. Most respondents had loans and assets, with vehicle ownership being the most common type of asset. Vehicle loans and home mortgages were the most common types of loans, reflecting the basic needs for transportation and housing. While some respondents had no loans or assets, the majority had diverse forms of funding and investments, indicating a relatively high level of financial diversification. This is in line with Hamid et al. (2023), who state that good financial knowledge enables good financial resilience as greater financial inclusion, such as having more bank accounts and financial products, is associated with financial resilience.

Wives' assessment of their husbands shows that most wives feel quite satisfied with their husbands, but there is still room for improvement in the husband-wife relationship. This is in line with Hamid et al. (2023), who concluded that a more harmonious interaction between husband and wife can improve family welfare. Meanwhile, the financial vulnerability variable shows variations in the vulnerability level across dimensions. In the income dimension, almost half of the respondents were in the low-vulnerability category, indicating relatively good income stability. This is in line with the results of Daud et al. (2019), who find that the determinants of financial vulnerability are income level, marital status, education level, and financial management behavior.

Vulnerability to the savings dimension showed that almost half of the respondents were in the high category, indicating that many respondents did not have adequate savings to deal with emergencies or unexpected expenses. This is in line with research by Guan et al. (2022) and Noerhidajati et al. (2021), who state that financial-related behavior can affect financial vulnerability, which can cause financial stress experiencedby sandwich generation families, which affects health.

In terms of consumption and expenditure, most respondents had relatively good control over expenditure. In line with research by Haqiqi and Subroto (2021), which shows that household consumption affects family welfare, the better the control over consumption and spending, the better family welfare. According to Anderloni et al. (2012), if individuals are impulsive and adopt impatient and short-minded behavioral patterns in spending, it will cause households to experience greater financial vulnerability.

Vulnerability to debt shows that almost half of the respondents are in the low category, indicating good debt management. According to (Abid & Shafiai, 2018) that household debt has a positive relationship with financial vulnerability; if debt is low, financial vulnerability will also be lower. Based on research Mustika et al. (2023) found that economic vulnerability has a significant effect on family resilience. Overall, the results show that, although many respondents have stability in income and debt management, savings are still the area with the highest level of vulnerability, which requires further attention to improve financial resilience. The objective well- being of the family shows that most respondents are in the high well-being category although there are some areas that require more attention, most of them are in the high well-being category.respondents feel quite well off in important aspects of life.

CONCLUSIONS

Education and income play important roles in the financial condition of sandwich families. Highereducation allows families to have better incomes so that they have access to more resources to meet their family needs (Budiono & Purba, 2022; Maulana, 2020). Families with high incomes also have lower financial vulnerability because they have discretion in their financial management (Abid & Shafiai, 2018; Daud et al., 2019).

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Fulfillment of family needs is one of the determinants of familywelfare (Haqiqi & Subroto, 2021; Marsudi et al., 2023).

Good interactions between husbands and wives also contribute to financial stability. Open communication regarding income, expenses, and financial goals allows couples to make better joint decisions and avoid misunderstandings (Hamid et al., 2023). Husbands and wives with good interactions can improve the overall family welfare. This is because a harmonious relationship between husband and wife is a factor that determines well-being (Carr et al., 2014; Margelisch et al., 2017; Tyas & Herawati, 2017) open and honest communication is essential for building trust and reducing misunderstandings. Providing emotional support to each other, especially in difficult situations, as well as conflict resolution, byfinding solutions together can help maintain healthy relationships (Anjani, 2024; Santoso, 2020). Financial literacy is important for improving financial well-being, especially for vulnerable groups such as sandwich families, who are often caught between the costs of children's education and parents' healthcare (Lusardi, 2019). Therefore, sandwich-generation families need to combine various strategies to reduce their financial vulnerability. Increasing income, saving effectively, managing debt, having a long-term financial plan, making spending efficient, and utilizing government assistance programs are steps that can help achieve objective family welfare. Through good financial planning and management, sandwich-generation families can reduce financial stress and ensure the well-being of all members. Thus, it is important for sandwich-generation families to improve financial literacy, adopt good financial management strategies, and maintain open and harmonious communication between husbands and wives to reduce financial vulnerability and improve family well-being.

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