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Original Article

Study of Anemia, Hemoglobin Level, and Subjective Well-being among Women of Reproductive Age in Indonesia

ABSTRACT

Anemia is a burden for women of reproductive age (15 – 49 years old). The condition might be worse for women in periods of pregnancy, menstruation, and breastfeeding. Anemia is also can contribute to subjective wellbeing. This study aimed to examine the correlation between anemia status and hemoglobin level related to subjective well-being among women of reproductive age. This cross-sectional study used the Indonesia Family Life Survey (IFLS) wave 5 in 2014/15 with a total study sample were 12,818. This study examined univariate, bivariate (Chi-square and ANOVA), and multivariate (multinomial logistic regression) analysis using STATA version 17. The findings revealed that anemia and hemoglobin level did not have a correlation with subjective well-being, but some other covariates were found significantly associated including being married, pregnant, poor SES, family life satisfaction, standard of life, and food consumption. It is concluded that subjective well-being is associated with not only health aspects but also social and economic. Intervention in the level of community is needed to improve the quality of life to achieve satisfied well-being.

Keywords: Anemia, subjective well-being, IFLS 5, women of reproductive age

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INTRODUCTION

Anemia is a medical condition characterized by a deficiency of red blood cells or hemoglobin in the blood. It can have various impacts on an individual's well-being, including subjective well-being. Subjective well-being refers to an individual's self-perceived happiness, life satisfaction, and positive affect (1). Research has shown that anemia can have a negative impact on subjective well-being. A study conducted on pregnant women found that the severity of anemia had a significant effect on their quality of life, which encompasses physical, mental, and social well-being (2). Another study on elderly patients found that chronic anemia was highly associated with fatigue, which is a subjective sensation of weakness, lack of energy, and tiredness (3). Furthermore, socioeconomic status (SES) has been found to be linked to subjective wellbeing. Lower SES is often associated with reduced access to material and social resources, as well as higher levels of stress-inducing conditions. These factors can negatively impact child well-being and overall subjective wellbeing (4).

Anemia is a medical condition

characterized by a decrease in the number of red blood cells or a decrease in the amount of hemoglobin in the blood. It can have significant effects on an individual's health and well-being. One study conducted on pregnant women in Yogyakarta found that the severity of anemia had a significant effect on their quality of life, including their physical, mental, and social well-being (2). This suggests that anemia can have a negative impact on subjective wellbeing. Subjective well-being (SWB) refers to an individual's evaluation of their own well-being and life satisfaction (1). It encompasses both hedonic well-being, which refers to how people feel emotionally in their everyday lives, and evaluative well-being, which refers to how people evaluate their overall current and future lives (5). Research on SWB has made extensive advancements in the past few decades, and it has become the most widely used index of wellbeing (6).

In addition to anemia and SES, other factors such as health status can also influence subjective well-being. A study conducted in Russia found that characteristics such as poor health had a significant negative impact on subjective well-being (7). Moreover, the impacts of flooding and flood preparedness **Commented [H1]:** The title is clear and accurately reflects the content of the study. It effectively communicates the key variables and the population under investigation.

Commented [H2]: The introduction appropriately highlights the significance of anemia among women of reproductive age and the potential impact on subjective well-being. It would be useful to include some statistics or prevalence rates to emphasize the importance of the issue in the Indonesian context.

Commented [H3]: The abstract mentions the use of the Indonesia Family Life Survey (IFLS) wave 5 in 2014/15 with a substantial sample size of 12,818. However, it lacks details on the specific measures used for subjective well-being, anemia assessment, and how hemoglobin levels were categorized. Providing this information would enhance the transparency and replicability of the study.

Commented [H4]: The abstract briefly mentions the statistical analyses performed, including univariate, bivariate (Chi-square and ANOVA), and multivariate (multinomial logistic regression) analyses. It would be helpful to provide a bit more detail on the specific variables included in the analyses and the rationale behind their selection.

Commented [H5]: The abstract reports that anemia and hemoglobin level did not correlate with subjective wellbeing, but several covariates, such as marital status, pregnancy, socioeconomic status, family life satisfaction, standard of life, and food consumption, were found to be significant. Providing a glimpse of the effect sizes or odds ratios in the abstract would give readers a better understanding of the practical significance of these findings.

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Commented [H7]: The abstract provides a concise summary of the study, outlining its objectives, methods, key findings, and conclusions. It effectively communicates the significance of the research. However, it would be beneficial to include a brief mention of the practical implications of the findings.

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The abstract is well-written and generally clear. However, there is a slight grammatical error in the phrase "This study examined univariate, bivariate..." where "examined" should be followed by "univariately" and "bivariately."

Commented [H9]: The keywords are appropriate and reflect the main elements of the study. However, it might be useful to include specific terms related to the measures of subjective well-being, anemia assessment, and hemoglobin levels to enhance discoverability.

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were found to severely impact human subjective well-being (8). Overall, anemia can have a negative impact on subjective wellbeing, as evidenced by studies on pregnant women and elderly patients. Additionally, socioeconomic status, health status, and environmental factors such as flooding can also influence subjective well-being. Understanding these relationships can help healthcare professionals and policymakers develop interventions and strategies to improve subjective well-being in individuals affected by anemia and other related factors.

In the global context, anemia is still a burden for women of reproductive age. In lowmiddle-income countries, the prevalence of anemia is still high (Ali, Abbasi, et al., 2020; Ali, Khan, et al., 2020; Gautam et al., 2019; Hakizimana et al., 2019; Jamnok et al., 2020; Owais et al., 2021; Sunuwar et al., 2020). In the Indonesian context, anemia is a burden for women of reproductive age. In Indonesia, there are some studies that found the factors associated with anemia among women (16). Moreover, sociocultural determinants were found as the drivers of anemia based on a previous study in Indonesia (17). According to the Basic Health Survey in 2018, the prevalence of anemia was 22.3% (18). According to the correlation between anemia and subjective well-being, there is some mediators including physical disability that might influenced (19,20). This study aimed to examine the correlation between anemia and hemoglobin status to subjective well-being among women of reproductive age in Indonesia using IFLS wave 5 data.

METHOD

This study was an analytical observation study with a cross-sectional design using IFLS 5 data (2014-2015), to analyze the relationship between anemia and subjective well-being. The study population was all women in Indonesia who were selected as respondents to the IFLS 5 study, namely women aged 15-49 years. The study sample was an IFLS 5 study respondent, who met the inclusion and exclusion criteria. Inclusion criteria: women of reproductive-aged 15-49 years and completed the Hemoglobin test. Exclusion criteria: Women whose data were not completed. The IFLS 5 survey was held from the end of 2014 until the beginning of 2015

using the same respondents as IFLS 4, namely 16.204 households, 50.148 individuals, and 2,662 individuals who died since IFLS 4 (21). From the IFLS 5 data, there were 18,825 female respondents who answered questionnaires. Then, from this data, it was re-selected based on inclusion and exclusion criteria. There were 12,818 study samples that were obtained according to inclusion and exclusion criteria. The dependent variable in this study is subjective well-being (satisfied/somewhat satisfied/not satisfied). The main independent variable is anemia and hemoglobin level. There are some other independent variables including age, marital status, pregnancy, menstruation, breastfeeding, SES, family life satisfaction, standard of life, and food consumption.

The analysis is divided into 3 parts, namely, univariate, bivariate, and multivariate analysis. Univariate analysis can be presented in the form of frequency distribution, which in this study describes the characteristics of anemia and subjective well-being among women of reproductive age. Bivariate analysis in this study was performed on two tests including Chi-Square for categorical independent variables and ANOVA for continuous independent variables. A 95% Confidence interval was used as cut off for significant levels. Multivariate analysis was done using multinomial logistic regression. Subjective well-being in this study was satisfied/somewhat/not categorized into satisfied, so in the multivariate analysis, the baseline or reference group is somewhat. It is because the authors want to explore the factors associated with satisfied and not-satisfied wellbeing. All the tests have been done using STATA version 17. The procedures in the IFLS were previously tested and approved by Institutional Review Boards (IRBs) in the United States (RAND Corporation) since IFLS 1. All data processed in this study came from IFLS 5 data which was conducted by Survey Meter and RAND Corporation. The original survey IFLS 5 has been approved by IRBs (Institutional Review Boards) in the United States (at RAND) and in Indonesia at the University of Gadjah Mada (UGM) (22). This current study using secondary data has been approved by the Universitas Muhammadiyah Pontianak Ethical Committee with number 013/KEPK-FIKES/UMPONTIANAK/2023.

Commented [H12]: The introduction is well-structured, providing a clear overview of the research context, rationale, and objectives.

Commented [H13]: Study Design and Data Source:

The study design is clearly stated as an analytical observation study with a cross-sectional design.

The use of IFLS 5 data (2014-2015) is appropriate for a crosssectional analysis. However, it would be beneficial to provide a brief rationale for choosing this dataset and how it aligns with the study's objectives.

Study Population and Sample Selection:

The study population is well-defined as all women in Indonesia aged 15-49 years who were respondents in the IFLS 5 study.

Inclusion and exclusion criteria are clearly defined, specifying that the sample includes women of reproductive age (15-49 years) who completed the Hemoglobin test and excludes those with incomplete data.

The process of sample selection from the IFLS 5 data is explained clearly, indicating a final sample size of 12,818 that met the inclusion and exclusion criteria.

Variables:

The dependent variable, subjective well-being, is appropriately categorized into satisfied, somewhat satisfied, and not satisfied.

The main independent variable is anemia and hemoglobin level. Additionally, other relevant independent variables are listed, including age, marital status, pregnancy, menstruation, breastfeeding, SES, family life satisfaction, standard of life, and food consumption.

Data Analysis:

The analysis plan is well-structured into univariate, bivariate, and multivariate analysis.

The explanation of univariate analysis, presenting frequency distribution to describe characteristics, is clear. Bivariate analysis includes the use of Chi-Square for categorical independent variables and ANOVA for continuous independent variables. The choice of statistical tests is appropriate for the types of variables being analyzed. The multinomial logistic regression for multivariate analysis is justified, considering the categorical nature of the dependent variable. The choice to categorize subjective wellbeing into three levels and use "somewhat" as the reference

group is explained. The use of a 95% confidence interval as the cutoff for significant levels is appropriate.

The software used for analysis (STATA version 17) is mentioned.

Ethical Considerations:

The study provides clear information on ethical approval, stating that the study using secondary data has been approved by the Universitas Muhammadiyah Pontianak Ethical Committee.

Review and Approval of IFLS Procedures:

RESULTS

Table 1 below describes the general characteristics of the samples. The data on age and Hemoglobin level are not presented in the table. Hb level in this study has a minimum 4 g/dL, maximum 18.8 g/dL and mean 14.5 g/dL. About the age, minimum age is 15, maximum is 49, and mean 31 years old. Among all respondents in this study, around half of them reported satisfied according to their subjective well-being (47%). About the anemia level, more than one-fourth of them were anemia (32%). More than three fourth of them were married (77%), not pregnant (95%), not in menstruation (86%), not in breastfeeding (86%), poor SES (67%), adequate family life satisfaction (59%), adequate standard of life (54%), and adequate food consumption (55%).

| Variables | Frequency | Percentage |
|--------------------------|-----------|------------|
| (n = 12,818) | | (%) |
| Subjective wellbeing | | |
| Satisfied | 6,023 | 46.99 |
| Somewhat satisfied | 5,369 | 41.89 |
| Not satisfied | 1,426 | 11.12 |
| Anemia | | |
| No | 8,754 | 68.29 |
| Yes | 4,064 | 31.71 |
| Marital status | | |
| Married | 9,803 | 76.48 |
| Not married | 3,015 | 23.52 |
| Pregnant status | | |
| No | 12,188 | 95.09 |
| Yes | 630 | 4.91 |
| Menstruation status | | |
| No | 10,976 | 85.63 |
| Yes | 1,842 | 14.37 |
| Breastfeeding status | | |
| No | 11,014 | 85.93 |
| Yes | 1,804 | 14.07 |
| Socioeconomic status | | |
| Rich | 4,205 | 32.81 |
| Poor | 8,613 | 67.19 |
| Family life satisfaction | | |
| Less adequate | 2,033 | 15.86 |
| Adequate | 7,597 | 59.27 |
| More than adequate | 3,188 | 24.87 |
| Standard of life | | |
| Less adequate | 2,228 | 17.38 |
| Adequate | 6,876 | 53.64 |
| More than adequate | 3,714 | 28.97 |
| Food consumption | | |

| Less adequate | 1,392 | 10.86 |
|--------------------|-------|-------|
| Adequate | 7,003 | 54.63 |
| More than adequate | 4,423 | 34.51 |

The results of bivariate using Chi-Square are reported in Table 2 below. In this table, there are some variables that have a correlation with subjective well-being, including age, pregnancy, SES, family life satisfaction, standard of life, and food consumption. However, the variables of anemia, Hb level, marital status, menstruation, and breastfeeding.

Table 2. Bivariate result between each independent variable and subjective wellbeing

| Variables | Subjective wellbeing | | | Tatal | |
|---------------------|----------------------|-----------------|-----------|--|-----------|
| variables | Satisfied | Somewhat | No | Total | |
| Anemia | | | | | |
| No | 4,126 | 3,658 | 970 | 8,754 | |
| Yes | 1.897 | 1.711 | 456 | 4.064 | |
| Age*** | | ,- | | Commented [H1/]: The table provides a clear over | viow of |
| Prob > F 0.0000 | | | | the general characteristics of the study sample, process | nting |
| Hb level | | | | the general characteristics of the study sample, preser | iting |
| Prob > F 0.7894 | | | | inequencies and percentages. | |
| Marital status | | | | It's informative to have the range and mean values for | age |
| Married | 4,631 | 1,267 | 356 | 3.015 and hemoglobin level, but it would be more comprehe | ensive |
| Not married | 1,392 | 4,102 | 1,070 | 9,803 to include these in the table for a complete descriptio | n of |
| Pregnant* | | | | the sample. | |
| No | 5,695 | 5,132 | 1,361 | 12,188 | |
| Yes | 328 | 237 | 65 | 630 | |
| Menstruation | | | | | |
| No | 5,160 | 4,589 | 1,227 | 10,976 | |
| Yes | 863 | 780 | 199 | 1,842 | |
| Breastfeeding | | | | | |
| No | 5,150 | 4,626 | 1,238 | 11,014 | |
| Yes | 873 | 743 | 188 | 1,804 | |
| SES*** | | | | | |
| Rich | 2,534 | 1,440 | 231 | 4,205 | |
| Poor | 3,489 | 3,929 | 1,195 | 8,613 | |
| Family life | | | | | |
| satisfaction*** | | | | | |
| Less adequate | 560 | 795 | 678 | 2,033 | |
| Adequate | 3,323 | 3,642 | 632 | 7,597 | |
| More than | 2,140 | 932 | 116 | 3,188 | |
| adequate | | | | | |
| Standard of | | | | | |
| life*** | | | | | |
| Less adequate | 620 | 903 | 705 | 2,228 | |
| Adequate | 2,968 | 3,327 | 581 | 6,876 | |
| More than | | | | | |
| adequate | 2,435 | 1,139 | 140 | 3,714 | |
| Food | | | | | |
| consumption** | | | | | |
| * | 439 | 530 | 423 | 1,392 | |
| Less adequate | 2,884 | 3,369 | 750 | 7,003 Commented [H15]: The presentation of bivariate a | nalysis |
| Adequate | 2,700 | 1,470 | 253 | 4,423 using Chi-Square is clear, and the variables that have a | a |
| More than | | | | correlation with subjective well-being are appropriate | - |
| adequate | | | | identified | ., |
| *p-value <0.05, **j | p-value <0.01 | , and ***p-valu | ie <0.001 | The use of actoricks to denote statistical significance k | ovols is |
| | | | | | - 4613 15 |

Table 3 below describes the multivariate analysis using multinomial logistic helpful for quick interpretation. However, it would be beneficial to include the actual pvalues in the table for transparency.

regression. This variable included two: satisfied subjective well-being and not satisfied subjective well-being. There are some variables found to have a correlation with those reported satisfied subjective well-being including those who are married, pregnant, poor, more than adequate family life satisfaction, more than adequate standard of life. However, the variables of anemia, Hb level, age, menstruation, breastfeeding, and food consumption did not have any correlation with satisfied subjective well-being. In detail, married women were 1.21 times more likely to be satisfied according to their well-being compared to single ones. Pregnant women were 1.21 times more likely to have satisfied wellbeing compared to non-pregnant women. Compared to rich ones, poor ones had a 37% probability of having satisfied well-being. According to those who have more than adequate family life satisfaction, an adequate standard of life, and more than adequate standard of life, they were 1.77 times, 1.19 times, and 1.74 times more likely to have satisfied well-being compared to those who have less adequate.

According to those reported not satisfied subjective well-being, it was revealed that some variables have correlation including married, poor, adequate family life satisfaction, more than adequate family life satisfaction, adequate and more than the adequate standard of life, adequate and more than adequate food consumption. In detail, married ones have a 26% probability to report not satisfied wellbeing compared to those not married. Poor women are 1.29 times more likely to have notsatisfied well-being compared to rich ones. Those who have adequate and more than adequate family life satisfaction, adequate and more than adequate standard of life, and adequate and more than adequate food consumption have the probability to have notsatisfied well-being 61%, 66%, 54%, 64%, 34%, and 25%, respectively.

 Table 3. The multivariate results of the correlation between anemia and other covariates with subjective wellbeing

Subjective well-being: satisfied

| Variable | RRR | 95% CI |
|---------------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| | | (Lower – upper) |
| Anemia (ref: No) | | |
| Yes | 0.99 | 0.88 - 1.14 |
| Age | 0.99 | 0.99 - 1.00 |
| Hb level | 1.02 | 0.98 - 1.06 |
| Marital status (ref: No) | | |
| Married | 1.21** | 1.08 - 1.35 |
| Pregnant (ref: No) | | |
| Yes | 1.21* | 1.00 - 1.46 |
| Menstruation (ref: No) | | |
| Yes | 0.96 | 0.86 - 1.07 |
| Breastfeeding (ref: No) | | |
| Yes | 1.04 | 0.93 - 1.17 |
| SES (ref: Rich) | | |
| Poor | 0.63*** | 0.58 - 0.69 |
| Family life satisfaction | | |
| (Ref: Less adequate) | | |
| Adequate | 1.08 | 0.93 - 1.24 |
| More than adequate | 1.77*** | 1.50 - 2.09 |
| Standard of life | | |
| (ref: Less adequate) | | |
| Adequate | 1.19* | 1.03 - 1.36 |
| More than adequate | 1.74*** | 1.48 - 2.04 |
| Food consumption | | |
| (ref: Less adequate) | | |
| Adequate | 0.88 | 0.76 - 1.03 |
| More than adequate | 1.13 | 0.95 - 1.34 |
| *p-value <0.05, **p-value | <0.01, and * | ***p-value <0.001 |

Subjective well-being: not satisfied

| Variable | RRR | 95% CI | |
|-----------------------------|-----------|-----------------|---|
| | | (Lower - upper) | , |
| Anemia (ref: No) | | | |
| Yes | 1.04 | 0.84 - 1.28 | |
| Age | 1.01 | 1.00 - 1.02 | |
| Hb level | 1.02 | 0.98 - 1.06 | |
| Marital status (ref: No) | | | |
| Married | 0.74** | 0.63 - 0.88 | |
| Pregnant (ref: No) | | | |
| Yes | 1.26 | 0.92 - 1.72 | |
| Menstruation (ref: No) | | | |
| Yes | 1.02 | 0.85 - 1.22 | |
| Breastfeeding (ref: No) | | | |
| Yes | 1.04 | 0.87 - 1.27 | |
| SES (ref: Rich) | | | |
| Poor | 1.29** | 1.10 - 1.53 | |
| Family life satisfaction | | | |
| (Ref: Less adequate) | | | |
| Adequate | 0.39*** | 0.33 - 0.47 | |
| More than adequate | 0.34*** | 0.26 - 0.44 | |
| Standard of life | | | |
| (ref: Less adequate) | | | |
| Adequate | 0.46*** | 0.39 - 0.55 | |
| More than adequate | 0.36*** | 0.28 - 0.47 | |
| Food consumption | | | |
| (ref: Less adequate) | | | |
| Adequate | 0.66*** | 0.55 - 0.78 | |
| More than adequate | 0.75* | 0.60 - 0.94 | |
| *n value <0.05 **n value <0 | 01 and ** | *n_value < 0.00 | |

DISCUSSION

According to the findings in this study, there is no correlation between anemia and subjective well-being. However, other **Commented [H16]:** The multinomial logistic regression results are well-organized, with clear indication of variables associated with satisfied and not satisfied subjective wellbeing.

The use of Relative Risk Ratios (RRR) and 95% confidence intervals adds statistical rigor to the findings. Including asterisks for significance levels is helpful, but providing actual p-values would enhance transparency. covariates have a significant correlation to either satisfied well-being or not satisfied wellbeing. Apart from anemia as the main predictor, there are other studies that found covariates have more tendency to be correlated with subjective well-being.

The opposite result found there is a significant positive relationship between subjective well-being and marital satisfaction (23). Studies have shown that higher levels of subjective well-being are associated with higher levels of marital satisfaction among married women. This suggests that subjective wellbeing can have a positive impact on the quality of marital relationships. Furthermore, subjective well-being is influenced by various factors, including economic status (24). A metaanalysis found that individuals in developing countries with higher economic status tend to have higher levels of subjective well-being. This suggests that economic factors play a role in shaping an individual's subjective well-being. In summary, anemia can have a negative impact on subjective well-being, as evidenced by the study on pregnant women (2). Subjective wellbeing is a multidimensional construct that encompasses both hedonic and evaluative wellbeing (5). It is influenced by various factors, including economic status (24). Additionally, subjective well-being is positively related to marital satisfaction among married women (23). Understanding the relationship between anemia and subjective well-being can help inform interventions and support for individuals with anemia to improve their overall wellbeing. The study in Indonesia found sociocultural variables had more influence on anemia (16).

Several studies about subjective wellbeing have been done before. The result of this study is supported by the study about food insecurity and subjective well-being in moredeveloped and less-developed countries (25). One study found that job uncertainty on fertility intentions was channeled by subjective wellbeing (26,27). In terms of the child, another study found that infertility was correlated with women's well-being (28). Parenthood on subjective well-being was also discussed in the study in Hungary (29). Another study about subjective well-being found that disaster is highly correlated with satisfied well-being (7,8). Among the students, there is a role and interaction of social support, resilience, and subjective well-being (30).

Even though anemia was not significantly associated with subjective wellbeing, other core variables were found associated with subjective well-being. Health behavior was found to correlate with subjective well-being by a longitudinal study (31). Among the elderly, iron deficiency, fatigue, and muscle strength have correlated with daily life activity that also impacts satisfied well-being (32).

CONCLUSION

Regarding to results in this study, there is no correlation between anemia and hemoglobin level and subjective well-being. However, there are some other covariates that have a correlation to satisfied and not-satisfied well-being including marital status, pregnancy, SES, family life satisfaction, the standard of life, and food consumption. It is concluded that subjective well-being is associated with not only health aspects but also social and economic. Intervention in the level of community is needed to improve the quality of life to achieve satisfied well-being.

Acknowledgments: We appreciate to RAND Corporation and the team who provided the data IFLS available online on the website https://www.rand.org/well-being/social-andbehavioral-

policy/data/FLS/IFLS/download.html after registering and receiving approval.

Conflicts of Interest: All authors declared there is no conflict of interest in this study.

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- 2. Muhammad A, Saputri GZ, Candradewi SF,

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Commented [H18]: Take a look at the citation in the published article. Fix everything immediately

Commented [H19]: Suggestions for Improvement:

Include the range and mean values for age and hemoglobin level in Table 1.

Provide actual p-values in Tables 2 and 3 for transparency. Clarify if there are specific reasons for not presenting age and hemoglobin level in Table 1.

Consider discussing the limitations of the study, such as any potential biases or challenges in the data, to enhance the transparency of the research process.

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Commented [H21]: In conclusion, the section effectively communicates the study's main findings and their implications. However, a bit more detail on practical recommendations and societal implications could further enhance the conclusion.

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