

# EXAMINING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CHILDHOOD EXPOSURE TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, PARENT-CHILD RELATIONSHIP AND RESILIENCE AMONG YOUNG ADULTS IN MALAYSIA

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# A RESEARCH PROJECT SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE BACHELOR OF SOCIAL SCIENCE (HONS) PSYCHOLOGY FACULTY OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCE UNIVERSITI TUNKU ABDUL RAHMAN

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# Examining the Relationship Between Childhood Exposure to Domestic Violence, Parent-Child Relationship and Resilience among Young Adults in Malaysia

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# **APPROVAL FORM**

This research paper attached hereto, entitled "Examining the Relationship between Childhood Exposure to Domestic Violence, Parent-Child Relationship and Resilience among Young Adults in Malaysia" prepared and submitted by Kishanthinee Shanmuganathan and Zainab Zafar in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Bachelor of Social Science (Hons) Psychology is hereby accepted.

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Supervisor

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# DECLERATION

We declare that the material contained in this paper is the end result of our own work and that due acknowledgement has been given in the bibliography and references to ALL sources be they printed, electronic or personal.

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# ABSTRACT

Malaysian young adults' resilience in the context of childhood exposure to domestic violence is a critical area of examination, considering the lasting impact of early adversities. This paper investigates the relationship between childhood exposure to domestic violence, positive and negative parent-child relationships on resilience among young adults in Malaysia. Employing a cross-sectional quantitative design and utilizing purposive and snowball sampling techniques, this study recruited 181 Malaysian young adults aged 18 to 25 (M =22.1, SD = 1.9) through diverse online platforms. Spearman's rank correlation analysis revealed that childhood exposure to domestic violence significantly and positively correlated with resilience among participants. Surprisingly, positive parent-child relationships also significantly and negatively correlated with resilience, suggesting the presence of other protective factors. Moreover, negative parent-child relationships, often associated with adversity, were unexpectedly significantly and positively correlated with resilience, challenging conventional understandings. These findings resonate with attachment theory, emphasizing the profound influence of early familial experiences on resilience outcomes in young adulthood. The study's main outcome underscores the significant correlations between childhood exposure to domestic violence, parent-child relationships, and resilience among Malaysian young adults, shedding light on the multifaceted factors shaping resilience in this population. This study emphasizes the urgency of tailored interventions and policies to support individuals affected by domestic violence and promote healthy parent-child relationships conducive to resilience development.

Keywords: childhood exposure to domestic violence, parent-child relationships, resilience, young adults, Malaysia

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# List of Abbreviations

CEDV	Childhood Exposure to Domestic Violence Scale
PARQ	Parent Adult Relationship Questionnaire
PFRS	Protective Factors of Resilience Scale
PTSD	Post Traumatic Stress Disorder
NHMS	National Health and Morbidity Survey
SPSS	Statistical Package for the Social Sciences
SERC	UTAR Scientific and Ethical Review Committee

#### Chapter I

# Introduction

#### **Background of Study**

Domestic violence is an atrocious and malevolent act of abusive behaviour that stems from a continuous influence. It is exploited by a partner to take control and manifest various forms of abuse to conserve the state of superior power (Kaur & Garg, 2008). It also owns numerous types for example physical, sexual, psychological, and sense of economical control (Ganley, 2002). Meticulously, there are many coercive types that originates from domestic violence including the dominating physical acts for instance to hurt, injure and physically harm as well as the evident mental acts such as frightening, controlling and manipulation (Lloyd, 2018). It is a highly broad and insidious issue effecting lives and rights as well as various other vital fundamentals such as the important role of relationships in life. To be precise, these constituents breach infinite personal boundaries and eliminates the primary decency of humanrights hence pivoting towards long-term, physical and psychological effects that drives brokenrelationships and a fractured family.

The devastating consequences of domestic violence extend beyond the immediate victims. It significantly effects not only the individuals who are abused but also their families, friends, colleagues, bystanders, and the entire community. To emphasize, the children who are constantly with their parents in the circle of abusive behaviour violence may lead to various internalizing and externalizing symptoms (Carter et.al., 2022). Watching, observing, attending, or be it blankly listening would bear the understatement of a heavy burden when exposed to domestic violence in their homes. Children that have been actively engaged in domestic violence tend to acquire the behavioural patterns of modelling the respective action and behaviour. They are more likely to go through the process of observation and imitation that is facilitated by the agents of domestic violence in which this case is the parents (Kopystynska et

al., 2022). In addition to that, observing consequent occurrences of aggression, mainly between parents may lead children to internalize violence as a norm, hence considering it as socially acceptable. Subsequently, children are now more likely to repeat hostile behaviors in the midst of having interactions with other people. Childhood exposure in terms of witnessing such violence on a regular basis not only puts them at risk of various social and physical issues but also normalizes violent behaviour on a regular basis, increasing their likelihood of becoming either the future victims or perpetrators (Harold & Sellers, 2018). Overall, still leading a direction to the chain reaction of violence in the upcoming era of the world.

The parent-child relationship plays a vital role in fostering the physical, emotional and mental growth of a child towards a desired positive manner. Children who have encountered family violence in their formative years, growing up in unstable, unsafe, and distressing environments, often struggle with elevated tendency to exhibit aggressive conduct, heightened emotional challenges like depression and/or anxiety, decreased levels of social skills, and diminished academic performance (Fantuzzo & Mohr, 1999). According to Popov and Ilesanmi (2015), it is discovered that the parent-child relationship influences various other constituents such as communication and emotional regulation that would later implicate the overall quality of the relationship between the parents and the child in terms of affecting the interconnectedness. Allof the mentioned struggles as part of past experience of violent exposure explains the correlation of the domestic violence that occurs at childhood in a way that it is affected negatively. Adult children would have trouble forming a good reassuring relationship with selfless and protective qualities with their parents (Storey, 2020).

All of the experiences of threat, trauma, violence, abuse, scarcity in relationships, obstacles in the parent-child dynamics correlates to adverse situations no human being would want or choose to go through in the course of life. Nonetheless there is a fraction of humanity that simply does. Accordingly, resilience appears to be the substantial process of adjusting and adapting to as such adverse situations (Luthar et al., 2000). Therefore, are the many approaches to explicate resilient as the pure true nature is still inexplicable. In the terms of adjusting for example, constituents of resilience include dispositional factors as the research portrayed by Ong et al., in 2006 mentions traits such as optimism while Grych et al., in 2020 disclosed about self-confidence. In the view of the Malaysian context, the cultural values, familial support connections, and community resources may be the key determinants in fostering resilience among children growing up in environments stained by domestic violence and abuse (Ahmad et al., 2020). Resilience also evolves from an element that involves the family and social dimensions rooting from the relationship between a parent and a child. Studies have shown that the positive bonding environment leads to attachment in life thus a child that experiences secure relationships with their parents tend to vitalize positive factors such as trust, enthusiasm to pursue new experiences as well as the keenness to welcome relationships (Moretti & Peled, 2004). Thus, with that this diligent research directs to providing valuable insights diving into the protective factors of resilience that advocates for a brighter path of development amongst the youths in Malaysia.

This research aims to investigate the relationship resilience, exposure to violence in the domestic setting during childhood, and the quality of parent-child relationships. With the aid of existing literature diving into the deeper understanding of the relationship, there is a lack of attention on exploring the criticality of this issue. Especially in terms of the types of domestic violence specifically in young adults on the account of the resilience levels in young adults, considering the cultural context in Malaysia. By shedding light, this study endeavors to contribute to existing research and literatures with hopes to provide a betterment of the future in terms of knowledge and life itself especially by mitigating the diabolical effects of domestic violence hence foster a sense of resilience considering the parent-child relationship in the young adult's community in Malaysia.

# **Problem Statement**

Childhood exposure to domestic violence profoundly affects children, with extensive psychological research documenting its repercussions. However, a crucial gap exists in understanding the nuanced correlation between this exposure and resilience specifically among young adults in Malaysia. This study addresses the gap by exploring the relationship between exposure to domestic violence during formative years on resilience within Malaysia's unique cultural context. Additionally, the research investigates the role of parentchild relationships and its influence on resilience among young adults, enhancing the study's comprehensive approach.

Malaysia's cultural acceptance of disciplining children through physical and verbal means, as evidenced by the 2019 survey indicating that 80% of Malaysian parents support physical punishment for children, underscores the necessity of studying this aspect within its specific cultural context (Annuar, 2019). Disturbing statistics from sources like the NHMS (2022), reporting over two in three children exposed to violent punishment (Galen Centre for Health and Social Policy, 2023), and data from the Women's Aid Organization documenting 7,568 domestic violence cases in 2021 in Malaysia, further emphasize the critical need to delve into this issue (Women's Aid Organization, 2021).

The research intends to employ a rigorous quantitative methodology to meticulously analyze the intricate links between exposure to violence in the domestic setting during childhood and parent-child relationships on resilience among young adults in Malaysia Notably, children are frequently present during domestic violence incidents, with a significant proportion directly witnessing the violence, as indicated by court statistics revealing their presence in 36% of cases, of which 60% involve direct witnessing (DomesticShelters.org, 2015). Understanding the enduring effects exposure to domestic violence during childhood on parent-child relationships in young adults is crucial. Research shows that individuals reporting childhood exposure to domestic violence, coupled with a lack of warmth in the parent-child relationship during that time, tend to exhibit higher symptoms of depression, anxiety, and PTSD while reporting lower life satisfaction as adults (Miller-Graff et al., 2016).

In navigating the intricate dynamics of Malaysian parent-child relationships marred by childhood exposure to domestic violence, resilience emerges as a pivotal and multifaceted factor. Few studies have examined the extent to which positive and negative parent-child relationship impacts or relates to resilience in young adults. This study delves into the profound impact of resilience, conceptualizing it as a primary driver influencing the trajectory of young adults' experiences (Ayed et al., 2018). Positioned as a protective force, resilience is poised to mitigate the enduring effects of early trauma, acting autonomously to shape the emotional and psychological well-being of individuals who weathered domestic violence in their formative years (Yule et al., 2019). The research explores resilience as a catalyst for adaptive coping mechanisms, scrutinizing its role in managing parent-child relationships. Beyond the complexities of adversity, resilience is envisioned as an innate attribute influencing the establishment and maintenance of robust interpersonal skills (Vella & Pai, 2019). This study unfolds the narrative of resilience as an integral element independently shaped by the overall quality of familial connections in the intricate tapestry of Malaysian life.

By employing rigorous methodologies and exclusively concentrating on the experiences of young adults, this study aims to uncover critical insights into how exposure to domestic violence during childhood influences and current overall quality of parent-child relationships impacts resilience of Malaysian young adults . Through the analysis of compelling data, this research aims to provide a transformative understanding of the correlations between these experiences, thereby paving the way for developing interventions

and support systems aimed at fostering healthier familial dynamics in the region.

#### Significance of study

The proposed research endeavors to conduct an extensive investigation into the enduring effects of exposure to violence in the domestic setting during childhood and parentchild relationships on resilience among young adults in Malaysia. Its significance extends across multiple dimensions, holding profound implications for individuals and society at large. This study aims to make a substantial contribution to the ever-growing body of literature addressing the intricate complexities surrounding domestic violence and the profound influence of familial dynamics on young adults' resilience.

Recognizing the pivotal importance of understanding the profound repercussions of childhood exposure to domestic violence and parent-child relationships on resilience, this study aligns with extensive research conducted by Forke et al. (2019). Their consistent findings revealing heightened risks of enduring psychological, emotional, and behavioural challenges among children exposed to domestic violence underscore the critical need for a deeper comprehension of this pressing social issue. However, there exists a research gap in examining the reciprocal relationship between resilience and the overall quality of parent-child relationships during the transition to young adulthood. While current research predominantly explores how resilience can impact parent-child relationship influences resilience, remains understudied. This gap warrants investigation into the nuanced dynamics of this bidirectional relationship—whether positive parent-child relationship corresponds to heightened resilience or if the inverse holds true. This unexplored facet is crucial for a comprehensive understanding of the interplay between negative and positive parent-child relationship and resilience in the context of the transitional phase to young adulthood within

the research landscape.

The outcomes of this study hold immense potential to steer policy formulation and the development of targeted intervention strategies aimed at mitigating the adverse effects of domestic violence on the younger generation. Particularly within Malaysia's cultural context, where societal norms play a defining role in shaping relationships (V Raja Mohan et al., 2022), this study fills a crucial void. It seeks to provide a contextualized understanding of the effects of domestic violence within Malaysia's unique cultural framework, offering insights specifically tailored to this demographic. These insights are fundamental for the development of culturally sensitive and efficacious interventions that resonate within the local context.

Moreover, the implications extend to informing the design and implementation of support systems for individuals affected by domestic violence. The research has the potential to serve as a compass for the creation of educational programs, therapeutic interventions, and support networks aimed at nurturing healthier parent-child relationships. Exploring the influence of parent-child relationships on resilience is crucial for unraveling its role in shaping relationship quality. This becomes particularly significant when considering young adults who have experienced childhood domestic violence, frequently perpetrated by their parents, a context prevalent in Malaysia (Galen Centre for Health and Social Policy, 2023).

Examining how positive and negative parent-child relationships influences resilience in this specific scenario holds key insights. The knowledge derived from this exploration not only enhances our understanding of resilience but also provides valuable insights into its dynamics within the intricate context of parent-child relationships, especially among young adults who have encountered domestic violence during their formative years. Ultimately, the aim is to break the cycle of violence and cultivate more nurturing family environments as well as resilient young adults. By advancing the discourse in this domain, this research significantly contributes to bridging gaps and offering practical insights necessary for formulating evidence-based interventions. It seeks to foster a profound understanding of the enduring implications of exposure to violence in domestic setting during childhood, specifically within Malaysia's socio-cultural landscape, thereby advancing scholarly understanding and societal well-being.

# **Research Objective**

- 4.8.1 To investigate the correlation between childhood exposure to domestic violence and resilience
- 4.8.2 To investigate the correlation between positive parent-child relationship and resilience
- 4.8.3 To investigate the correlation between negative parent-child relationship and resilience

# **Research Question**

- RQ1. Does a correlation exist between childhood exposure to domestic violence and resilience?
- RQ2. Does a correlation exist between positive parent-child relationship and resilience?

RQ3. Does a correlation exist between negative parent-child relationship and resilience?

# Hypothesis

H1: There is a significant correlation between childhood exposure to domestic violence and resilience in young adults in Malaysia.

H2. There is a significant correlation between positive parent-child relationships and resilience in young adults in Malaysia.

H3. There is a significant correlation between negative parent-child relationships and resilience in young adults in Malaysia.

# **Conceptual Definitions:**

#### Childhood Exposure to Domestic Violence

Childhood exposure to domestic violence refers to the condition wherein children witness, directly experience, or are affected by acts of violence or abusive behaviors occurring between adult intimate partners or within the household environment. This exposure encompasses various forms of violence, including physical, sexual, and psychological attacks, as well as economic coercion that adults or adolescents perpetrate against their intimate partners. Children exposed to domestic violence may encounter the violent events directly by witnessing or hearing them, being involved (such as trying to intervene or seeking help) or experiencing the aftermath (such as seeing injuries or observing emotional distress in family members) (Fantuzzo & Mohr, 1999).

# Parent-child relationship

Parent-child relationship is explicated as a long lasting and biologically established relationship that is personal and is based on the interrelated nature of the past experiences and the future anticipation of homogenous interconnected experiences (Özmete & Pak, 2022).

# Young Adults

Young adulthood denotes a transitional phase situated between adolescence and young adulthood, encompassing individuals aged between 18 to 25 years old, characterized by significant life changes and developments (Scales et al., 2015).

# Resilience

Resilience is viewed as an evolving developmental process that involves achieving positive adaptation in the face of substantial adversity. This conceptualization of resilience hinges on two essential conditions: a) encountering significant threats, severe adversity, or

trauma; and b) accomplishing positive adaptation despite substantial challenges to the developmental process (Cicchetti, 2010).

**Keywords**: Childhood Exposure to Domestic Violence, Resilience, Young Adults, Parent-Child Relationship, Malaysia

# **Operational Definitions**

### Parent-Child Relationship

Parent-Child relationship is the score on The Parent Adult Relationship Questionnaire (PARQ), (Pitzer et al., 2011). It comprises of 8 items aimed at evaluating the relationship between parents and their children. This questionnaire delineates two distinct facets: the positive relationship and the negative relationship. A higher score on the positive subscale signifies a more favorable and constructive bond between the parent and child, while a higher score on the negative subscale indicates a more adverse and strained relationship.

#### Childhood exposure to domestic violence

Childhood exposure to domestic violence is the score on The Childhood Exposure to Domestic Violence (CEDV) scale (Edleson et al., 2008). It comprises of 33 items rated on a 4- point Likert scale, ranging from 0 (never) to 3 (almost always). The scores from all the items are then summed to obtain a total score, which indicates the level of exposure to domestic violence. A higher score implies a greater degree of exposure to domestic violence during childhood.

# Resilience

Resilience is the score on the Protective Factors for Resilience Scale (PFRS) (Harms et al. 2017). It comprises of 20 items aimed to examine three sets of factors that predict resilience: (10 for personal resources; 5 each for social resources peers and social resources family subscales). Each subscale has five items, and the response options for each item are on a 7-point scale ranging from "strongly disagree" to "strongly agree". The total score for each subscale is obtained by summing the responses to the five items in that subscale. The total score for the PFRS is obtained by summing the responses to all 20 items.

# Young Adult

Age of the participants is asked by requesting them to fill in their age. Young adults who are aged between 18 years old and 25 years old will be adopted as the participants of the study (Scales et al., 2015).

#### **Chapter II**

# **Literature Review**

# **Parent-Child Relationship**

The relationship between parent and child also acknowledged as parent-child relationship is explicated as a long lasting and biologically established relationship that is personal and is based on the interrelated nature of the past experiences and the future anticipation of homogenous interconnected experiences (Özmete & Pak, 2022). To be precise, it conceptualizes the sense of continuity in which past experiences and events that occurs does indeed contribute to sculpting expectations regarding the connectivity and relatedness in the future experience.

The in the quantum of intimacy is what differs the interrelation between parent and child compared to supplementary relationships such as friendships and partners. A parent-child relationship is unique in its own type of relationship specifically because of the degree of mutual affection and familiarity (Popov & Ilesanmi, 2015). Therefore, it does indeed have a large implication on the quality of the parent-child relationship mainly because of emotions and connectivity constituents. Apart from that, a crucial justification on the quality of the parent-child relationship is that it owns a propensity to govern vital elements such as decision-making, communication, and interaction of a child alongside the abilities of emotional management hence leading to a predominant part in the establishment of self-confidence and self-esteem in future relationships (Yahya et al., 2021). Having a good proportion of emotional support is a foundation of prominent involvement in the lives of one another between a parent and a child and it has led to major transitions in the lives of individuals in their young adulthood for example residing in the home of their parents even still as a young adult hence leading to a balanced and compatible relationship (Fingerman et al., 2012).

Filial piety also promotes a compatible and positive parent-child relationship that entails two factors, reciprocity, and authoritarianism. It plays a generic groundwork that supports an equal parent-child relationship as a result from high levels of involvement and interaction (Özmete & Pak, 2022). It then generates positivity in parent-child relationship which fosters a child to be influenced by the gratitude for parents care since childhood and the keenness to reciprocate the needs of parents be in it psychological or relational needs (Yeh et al., 2013).

There are studies that suggests the gender differences in parent-child relationships. Commonly, the relationship between mother and daughter are typically the strongest whilst it is the opposite for the relationship between father and daughter which is not very sturdy (Starrels, 1994). In a recent study it is discovered that the female gender experienced a significantly higher incidence of violence from parents, and we more frequently exposed to the violence in terms of witnessing. It also involved elevated level of complaints, self-esteem problems and struggles in cohabitation. Conversely, the male gender portrayed higher prevalence of issues related to empathy and faces obstacles in academic contexts (Loinaz et al., 2023). According to McNaughton (2000), mothers tend to use calmer tones and prioritize discussion on thoughts and emotions while communicating and interacting with their daughters. The association of closeness in interaction fosters an environment in which vitalizes the formation and sustainability of relationship in daughters. Nonetheless, in contrast, both parents tend to promote traits and characteristics for instance, emotional control, independence, and a sense of responsibility in males compared to females. These traits of elements push for propensities to depend on power in order to attain goals in life. Previous research has predominantly assessed the overall quality of the parent-child relationship by examining the dynamics between mothers and fathers in their own separate contexts. It neglects a comprehensive evaluation of positive and negative parent-child relationship of encompassing both parents. In light of this, the present study ventures to adopt a holistic perspective seeking to comprehend the overarching quality of the parent-child relationship, considering the involvement and contributions of both parents.

#### **Childhood Exposure to Domestic Violence**

Childhood exposure to domestic violence refers to the condition wherein children witness, directly experience, or are affected by acts of violence or abusive behaviors occurring between adult intimate partners or within the household environment. This exposure encompasses various forms of violence, including physical, sexual, and psychological attacks, as well as economic coercion that adults or adolescents perpetrate against their intimate partners. Children exposed to domestic violence may encounter the violent events directly by witnessing or hearing them, being involved (such as trying to intervene or seeking help) or experiencing the aftermath (such as seeing injuries or observing emotional distress in family members) (Fantuzzo & Mohr, 1999). Additionally, Gomes (2020) highlights that exposure to domestic violence can manifest as a blend of depression, anxiety, and diminished self-worth in children, leading to internalized emotions and a sense of hopelessness due to the abuse. Furthermore, scholars agree that children can "witness" domestic situations in various ways beyond direct observation. This includes scenarios like unintentionally overhearing arguments or witnessing the aftermath, such as encountering physical evidence like bruises, cuts, or damaged furniture (Cunningham & Baker, 2004; Mullender et al., 2002).

The exposure of children to domestic violence encompasses a spectrum of consequences, significantly effecting both their physical and mental health. Physical harm, including injuries or sexual abuse, can result from the inflicted abuse. Moreover, verbal abuse can profoundly affect a child's mental well-being, leading to detrimental effects on their psychological health. In the study by Buckley et al. (2007), children described their experiences as a constant state of fear and discomfort, expressing feelings of helplessness and anger. They

also reported physical symptoms like sleep disturbances, headaches, and stomach issues. To cope with the violence, children adopted diverse mechanisms such as mentally withdrawing into their own thoughts, leaving the premises if old enough, hiding, diverting their attention through activities like watching television or engaging in lively pursuits, confiding in friends or family, and attempting to resolve conflicts.

While much research has delved into children exposed to domestic violence, there remains a dearth of studies investigating the effect of these experiences as individuals navigate the transition into young adulthood. Of those studies which have considered this issue, many have not examined exposure to domestic violence exclusively. Understanding this pivotal period is crucial as it significantly shapes various facets of their lives. Instead, their research delved into the enduring consequences stemming from the accumulation of stressful experiences and maltreatment during childhood. These encompassed various adversities such as sexual abuse, exposure to domestic violence, parental substance misuse, and rejection by parents (Edwards et al., 2003; Velleman & Templeton, 2016; Goldberg & Blaauw, 2019). Researchers have found that children who are exposed to domestic violence report experiencing poorer mental health (Clarke et al., 2020), more symptoms of PTSD, depression, trauma symptoms and antisocial and suicidal behaviours (Alireza Doroudchi et al., 2023) as well as distress and current conflict in relationships (Rakovec-Felser, 2014) compared to children with no history of domestic violence exposure.

Numerous empirical studies indicate that being raised in a household marked by abuse can lead to behavioural and social challenges in children (Bauer et al., 2006; Lundy & Grossman, 2005; Cunningham & Baker, 2004; Kitzmann et al., 2003; Laing, 2000; Edleson, 1999). Tuyen and Larsen (2012) conducted a study examining the impact of exposure to domestic violence, revealing that older children and adolescents often assumed roles of responsibility within the family dynamic, feeling compelled to shield siblings and mothers from the violence. Some of them harbored feelings of bitterness about assuming these responsibilities, primarily because it led to their isolation from peers. Additionally, many described significant disruptions in their educational pursuits, including difficulties concentrating, experiencing bullying, frequent school absences, and displaying subpar academic performance.

In the context of Malaysia, scholarly attention predominantly centers on exploring the occurrence of domestic violence during childhood rather than delving into the enduring effects it has on individuals as they transition into young adulthood. Several studies have underscored the profound and lingering effects of such early exposure to domestic violence, highlighting its association with conditions like PTSD, anxiety, depression, and the hindrance it poses to the development of healthy relationships among young adults (Ghani, 2018; Kadir Shahar et al., 2020)

Notably, within research conducted on the Malaysian populace, the exploration of domestic violence commonly falls under the umbrella term of 'Intimate Partner Violence.' This classification primarily focuses on violence inflicted upon intimate partners, typically mothers. However, there exists a notable paucity of research specifically targeting domestic violence experienced by children, where the perpetrators could potentially be either parent within the familial unit. This gap in scholarly exploration neglects a critical aspect of the issue, failing to fully comprehend the nuanced dynamics of domestic violence within Malaysian households, particularly effects on the young adults of Malaysia

# Resilience

Resilience is meticulously defined as the vital capacity to effectively adjust and thrive when confronted with adversities, trauma, or substantial threats (Horn & Feder, 2018). Resilience has garnered considerable attention within the academic literature, where the predominant feature in its various definitions revolves around the notion of 'bouncing back' (Poley & Cohen, 2010). Scholars have extensively researched and explored the multifaceted aspects of resilience, emphasizing its dynamic nature as individuals confront and navigate adversities. The essence of resilience lies in the capacity to not only endure challenges but to rebound and adapt positively in the face of adversity.

In accordance with a constituent in resilience to cope with adversities in life, social support is one of the major elements that promotes resilience. The many various forms of social support, including emotional support be it from family, friends, and significant others plays a pivotal role in assisting individuals in coping with adversities in their lives especially in young adults (Yıldırım & Tanrıverdi, 2021). The network of relationships and connections that individuals cultivate serves as a crucial resource during challenging times. Emotional support that is often characterized by empathy, understanding, and expressions of care, contributes to a sense of belonging and security. Family members, friends, and significant others provide a valuable foundation for individuals to lean on, fostering a supportive environment that aids in the navigation of life's difficulties. The collective strength derived from these social connections not only provides solace but also offers perspectives, insights, and shared experiences that can enhance resilience and contribute to a more positive and adaptive response to life's adversities. In essence, the presence of a robust social support system serves as a cornerstone for individuals as they confront and overcome the challenges that life may present.

The population with major prevalence of mental health illness are young adults (Rowling, 2006). These individuals have the tendency to experience higher levels of negative emotions for instance anxiety, depression as well as anger in addition to being stuck in the ruminative cycle even after the occurrence of the adversity or tragedy. Mental illness in which incorporates circles of violence produces vulnerabilities and employs certain restrictions that are related to social or occupational distress. The negative experiences would then limit their abilities to build confidence especially in interactions as well as resilience when it comes to stressful circumstances (Hadebe & Ramukumba, 2020). The constant exposure to negative situations and calamity puts these young adults at risk of many dimensions of exclusion including social and discriminatory. It is the current situation that prevents them to cultivate and exhibit the sense of resilience (Murphey et al., 2013). However, young adults with stable emotions and are resilient have better capabilities to return to their typical emotional state, further explicates the capacity to withstand and grow in circumstances of hardships. For example, the potential to feel good about oneself, the bold choice to be an optimist instead of a pessimist, to let oneself have control over life and acknowledge that their life is theirs to have. All these beliefs and principles of resilience allow individuals to cope well with past adversities and move on from stressful events (Hadebe & Ramukumba, 2020).

The extensive transformation that survivors and victims of witness that of domestic violence undergo in the aftermath of abusive relationships, transitioning from a state of control to one of empowerment, while grappling with the emotional consequences of fear and devastation vastly highlights the imperative for studying resilience in young adults with such experiences. As resilience allows young adults to adapt and overcome challenges, it enables them to rebuild lives and establish a much more positive future for themselves. The need to understand resilience exhibited by these individuals becomes crucial, as it sheds light on the

formidable strength required to navigate the challenging journey from survival mode to the pursuit of a new and autonomous life.

## **Parent-Child Relationship and Resilience**

In the expansive realm of parent-child relationships, scholarly investigations into resilience have primarily focused on its impact within familial dynamics. Existing research delineates the intricate interplay between healthy parent-child relationships and the cultivation of resilience in young adults (Kennison & Spooner, 2020). Intriguingly, some empirical evidence suggests that even within unhealthy parent-child relationships, resilience can emerge as a salient factor shaping the psychological landscape of young adults such as a seminal study by Masten and Wright (2010) which delves into the phenomenon of "ordinary magic," where children exposed to adverse circumstances, including unhealthy parent-child relationships, exhibit remarkable resilience. The researchers argue that facing challenges within the family environment can prompt the development of adaptive coping mechanisms and problem-solving skills in young individuals (Masten &Wright, 2010). However, the nascent field of research has yet to comprehensively explore how each positive or negative parent-child relationships influence the formation of resilience as a protective factor in young adults.

This study aims to fill this critical gap by delving into the experiences of young adults who, during their formative years, endured domestic violence which may have been perpetrated by their own parents. Existing research focusing on resilience in young adults tend to suggest that resilience can be utilized in various ways in terms of parent-child relationships by young adults. A study conducted by Luthar et al. (2000) underscores that resilient individuals often demonstrate adaptive functioning and positive social engagement. In the context of parent-child relationships, young adults with resilience may be more adept at overcoming challenges, leading to enhanced family cohesion, trust, and a sense of security. The primary factor most frequently associated with the development of resilience in children is having at least one consistent and nurturing relationship with a supportive parent, caregiver, or other trusted adult. As indicated by Fernandes et al. (2021), young adults might maintain a positive relationship with one parent while simultaneously experiencing a negative relationship with the other parent, yet still demonstrate resilience. Another study conducted by Masten (2014) also emphasizes the transformative potential of resilience, portraying it as a dynamic process that can foster positive outcomes. Resilient young adults, having navigated adversities, may exhibit heightened interpersonal skills, empathy, and effective coping mechanisms. These qualities contribute to the establishment and maintenance of positive parent-child relationships by fostering open communication, mutual understanding, and emotional support.

The development of resilience stemming from parent-child relationships hinges on the attachment between children and their parents, which evolves as children transition into young adults (Ali et al., 2021). It's crucial to recognize that attachment dynamics can shift during this transition period. For instance, children who were securely attached to their parents might develop an anxious-resistant attachment as young adults, particularly if they've encountered negative parent-child relationships (Tabachnick et al., 2021). In such cases, resilience may emerge as these individuals navigate these challenges and cultivate resilience. Conversely, studies have observed instances where young adults with avoidant attachment styles develop resilience to navigate adverse relationships with their parents (Frosch et al., 2019). Thus, attachment dynamics significantly influence parent-child relationships and can be perceived differently based on the resilient outcomes they engender.

Diverse studies present varying perspectives on the impact of parent-child relationships on resilience in young adults. Supporting this, Sroufe et al. (2005) conducted a longitudinal study suggesting that individuals developing resilience through emotional distance resulting from parent-child relationship may struggle with forming emotionally connected relationships later in life. However, within the context of the diverse culture present for Malaysian young adults, no specific study has explored the connection between quality of relationships with parents, whether positive or negative and resilience. This gap in research highlights the need for a study examining how resilience-building influences parent-child relationships among Malaysian young adults. Examining the impact of parent-child relationships on resilience in the context of Malaysia's culture is imperative for understanding the formation of resilience.

In Malaysian society, the significance of cultural values and family ties is deeply ingrained (Sumari et al., 2019). Despite facing challenges in their early years, young adults in Malaysia often choose to maintain connections with their parents, driven by the cultural importance placed on filial piety and familial bonds (Cheah et al., 2009). The collectivist nature of Malaysian culture highlights the essential role of interconnectedness and mutual support within the family unit (Sumari et al., 2019). This cultural context profoundly shapes how individuals perceive and navigate relationships with their parents, even when confronted with difficulties. The intricate interplay between Malaysia's collectivist family culture and the development of resilience becomes apparent as young adults leverage cultural values to navigate challenges. This enables them to cultivate resilience by effectively managing relationships with their parents, regardless of whether those relationships are positive or negative.

#### **Childhood Exposure to Domestic Violence and Resilience**

Childhood exposure to domestic violence is a significant element that can cause longterm effects on an individual as a child and growing up. Significant impacts include as mentioned for instance depression and anxiety, rumination on self-worth and hopelessness. To be precise a study discovered that childhood trauma exposure does indeed contribute to severity of depression (Wingo et al., 2010). Comprehending the aspects of resilience in the context of childhood exposure to domestic violence is crucial to advocate for the amelioration of adversity and the advocacy of optimistic adaptations in life.

A small scale of past studies has underscored the nature of childhood exposure to domestic violence with regards to resilience though it may still be lacking to contribute to a much more comprehensive understanding in humanity. Many excerpts highlight the experience of children in terms of domestic violence such as a variation of symptoms of either doing rather well and coping well but some are persevering and hanging on whilst trying to put things together and manage in life. Individuals specifically trying to manage life exhibited issues regarding self-esteem and mild anxiety symptoms. Nonetheless, some of the children indicated general distress or depression (Gewirtz and Edleson, 2004).

A portion of research depicted that some children in their progress of growing up and developmental growth are associated to resilience in a different manner. To explicate, children mainly being exposed to or even witnessing such violence who also experienced a great level of significant challenges own the ability to bounce back to the proper functioning with the exception of returning to environments that promotes stability and security (Luthar et al., 2000). Supportive and safe environment of community makes up a secure social and physical environment. These determinants play a major factor of cultivating individual resilience as it equips individuals with dominant elements in this context such as a sense of preparedness, recovery and adaptation that will help diminish the impact of calamity and bring upon positive outcomes (Song and Li, 2019). While on the other hand, instability and disadvantaged environments are more likely to produce cracks thus increase vulnerability for example the current social issues such as poverty or crime are interrelated to exposure to violence that

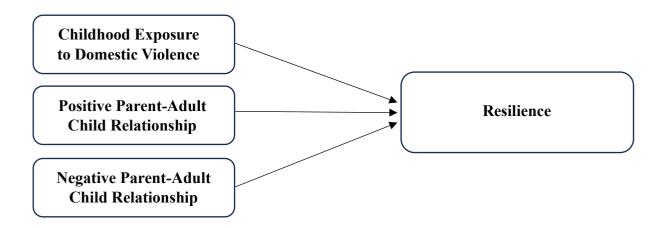
buffers and undermines the sense of resilience, increasing possibilities of the negative consequences (Gewirtz and Edleson, 2004).

Despite certain studies and advances to conclude on a linkage, a number of gaps persists in the literature as there are many aspects to follow through in studying resilience and childhood exposure to domestic violence. For instance, the variability of experience impacting the functionality (Holden et al., 1998) or perhaps the differentiation levels of violence in each family (Straus and Gelles, 1990). In addition, the mechanism and integration of protective factors is one of the major elements to be considered as it may influence the life of a child exposed to domestic violence (Gewirtz and Edleson, 2004).

In view of the importance of resilience, it is an elucidation aimed to mitigate the effects and aftermath of childhood exposure to domestic violence. This allows one to come back stronger amid the setbacks and crisis present at childhood to lead a mindful life in the current present and future. It is paramount to understand the factors of resilience and sanction social organizations and policymakers to embark on a journey of action and discovery to understand dynamics of resilience with childhood exposure to violence hence establish the right support systems to present for the affected youths in domestic violence and to foster a greater sense of resilience in life.

#### **Conceptual framework**

Figure 1.1



This diagram above portrays the conceptual framework of the ongoing study. Inaugurating from the top, it elucidates the relationship of childhood exposure to domestic violence, followed by negative parent-adult child relationship and positive parent-adult child relationship with resilience.

#### **Theoretical Framework**

# Attachment Theory

This study examines the correlation between childhood exposure to domestic violence, quality of parent-child relationship on resilience in young adults in Malaysia. To build upon existing studies, this study applies the Attachment Theory (AT) by Bowlby (1958) to assess how exposure to domestic violence during childhood as well as positive and negative parent-child relationship may relate to attachment patterns and subsequently have a relationship with resilience among young adults. Attachment theory is a psychological framework that explains how people interact and behave in relationships and was originally developed to describe the bond between children and their parents. This theory posits that a child's early experiences with caregivers shape their attachment styles, affecting how they relate to others throughout their lives, including their relationships with parents in adulthood which in turn has an effect on their resilience. The theory consists of 4 types of attachment styles which are as follows: Secure attachment, Anxious-resistant attachment, Avoidant attachment, and Disorganized-disoriented attachment. Secure attachment during childhood is established when a parent consistently meets the child's needs, enabling a safe environment for exploration. This fosters the child's confidence to interact with the world independently, tackle challenges, and effectively manage their emotions (Mikulincer & Shaver, 2004). Anxious-resistant attachment often experienced inconsistent caregiving, leading to heightened anxiety about relationships. They may appear clingy, seeking but not easily

receiving comfort from caregivers (Waters et al., 2000). Avoidantly attached individuals often had caregivers who were emotionally unavailable or dismissive of their needs. They tend to downplay the importance of close relationships and may appear emotionally distant or detached (Campbell & Marshall, 2011). Disorganized-Disoriented Attachment style often stems from experiences of severe neglect, trauma, or inconsistent caregiving, leading to confusion or fear in relationships. These individuals may display unpredictable behaviors in response to stress (Paetzold et al., 2015).

Attachment theory posits that early experiences play a pivotal role in shaping emotional regulation and social functioning. According to Cunningham & Baker (2004) childhood exposure to domestic violence can disrupt emotional regulation and hinder the development of robust social connections. Such experiences may potentially affect future parent-child relationships. Additionally, research conducted by Edleson (1999) and Kitzmann et al. (2003) underscores that exposure to domestic violence during childhood can significantly influence a child's attachment style, leading to the development of insecure attachment patterns like anxious or avoidant styles. These insecure attachments can impede the establishment of healthy and secure relationships, including those with parents in later life. Moreover, extensive studies by Bauer et al. (2006) and Lundy & Grossman (2005) highlight that exposure to violence in the domestic setting during childhood may compromise the overall quality of the parent-child relationship in adulthood, contributing to strained interactions, communication challenges, and a lack of trust between young adults and their parents.

Resilient individuals, according to Attachment Theory (Bowlby, 1958), are more likely to develop a secure attachment style, characterized by trust and a sense of safety in relationships (Mikulincer & Shaver, 2004). A secure attachment, fostered by resilience, can lead to positive parent-child relationships, characterized by effective communication, emotional support, and a sense of security for the young adult (Bowlby, 1958; Mikulincer & Shaver, 2004). Resilience enables individuals to overcome adversities, fostering a sense of competence and efficacy. Overcoming challenges can lead to a positive parent-child relationship, as the resilient young adult demonstrates problem-solving skills and the ability to navigate difficulties, contributing to mutual respect (Masten, 2014). Resilient individuals may disrupt the cycle of insecure attachments often associated with exposure to domestic violence. Breaking this cycle can lead to the establishment of secure and positive parent-child relationships, as resilient young adults strive to provide a healthier familial environment than they experienced during childhood (Bowlby, 1958; Cunningham & Baker, 2004).

#### Chapter III

#### Methodology

#### **Research Design**

Quantitative research explicates a study that collects, reviews, and analyses numerical data with the application of preliminary statistical techniques (Sheard, 2018). Surveys with the use of validated questionnaires and scales are a common method in conducting quantitative research to distribute questions with the help of rating scales to investigate the relationship between variables and then allow the exporting of information to numerical data. The process of quantitative research that is widely used in the world of psychology is often utilized to determine the patterns of variables in the midst of enabling the generalizability of research design whereby the data collection occurs from a range of participants simultaneously at the same time based on inclusion and exclusion criteria. Researchers will also have the chance to examine the relationship between variables. (Setia, 2016). Cross-sectional studies are tremendously beneficial and efficient in terms of studying and understanding the propensity and prevalence of a study (Thomas, 2020).

All in all, a cross-sectional quantitative study design was adopted for the relationship between childhood exposure to domestic violence, resilience, and parent-child relationships on resilience in young adults in Malaysia. A one-time survey was administered to collect data that occurs at a single point in time thus Qualtrics XM, the web-based online survey software was implemented to administer and distribute the questionnaires to the sample of participants. The utilization of numerical data and statistical analysis in a quantitative study renders it more structured and impartial when contrasted with alternative research methodologies (Apuke, 2017). Additionally, employing an online survey offers the benefit of convenience and cost- effectiveness to researchers, allowing them to access a wide pool of participants across Malaysia without incurring travel expenses across different regions (Evans & Mathur, 2005).

Given our focus on young adults who have encountered childhood domestic violence, some individuals within this demographic opt to keep their experiences undisclosed. They might exhibit hesitancy when faced with a traditional paper survey distributed in person. Therefore, the implementation of an online survey, ensuring complete anonymity and eliminating the need for face-to-face interaction, could foster a greater sense of comfort and willingness among these young adults to participate and share their responses.

# **Sampling Procedure**

A Purposive Sampling method is a non-probability procedure of sampling to choose and select a circle based on the purpose of increasing the adequacy and quality of the sample (Nikolopoulou, 2022). It is sketched out to outline the sampling method for the current study in which it determines, identifies, and selects the participants for the research considering the specific criteria with context regarding childhood exposure to domestic violence. A snowball sampling method shall be implemented into this research as the context of this study is delicate and a sensitive matter to discuss. Thus, this method was used in the search of individuals with particular experiences that are challenging to reach (Simkus, 2023). This study utilized the networks within the mentioned platforms strategically to target young adults with childhood exposure to domestic violence. This approach aims to explore their relationship quality with parents whether it may be positive or negative amid seeking diversity in this sample.

# **Participants**

# Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria

The inclusion criteria of this study were the targeted participants of young adults aged 18 to 25 with the nationality of Malaysian and has had childhood exposure to domestic violence. These young adults are also the ones with biological parents only.

The exclusion criteria were comprising of young adults with psychological disability in the case of anxiety and depression to avoid further negative effects and to protect the wellbeing of the participants. Associated comorbidities might influence the results falsely or elevate the likelihood of experiencing the harmful effects (Patino & Ferreira, 2018). Cognitive and intellectual impairments in also one of the exclusion criteria that mainly encircles the circumstances of consent. Study protocols have shown the rationalization of excluding these participants is because there is a lack in capacity to give informed consent hence the ability to adhere to procedures is questionable (Plosky et al., 2022). The location was within Malaysia.

#### Sample Size, Power, and Precision

G\* Power is a computer tool and software that is commonly used to generate statistical power analysis to determine the sample size and the effect size. G\* Power is set to compute the suggested sample size for the current study and further ameliorations were made to the finalized sample size considering aspects such as incomplete or invalid surveys. Using G\*Power 3.1.9.4, the sample size was calculated, and a total of **109 samples** was achieved for this study. To account for potential survey incompletions or missing data, an extra 20% of participants will be included as a contingency measure, as suggested by Memon et al. (2020). Consequently, this adjustment increases the target sample size for the study to **131 participants**. For the variable of childhood exposure to domestic violence, a past study indicated that r = .23 (Beutel et al., 2017). This value is then converted into Fischer's Z value of 0.2339. For the variable of Parent-Child Relationship a past study by Zakeri et al. (2010) indicated that  $R^2 = .19$  which was converted into Fischer's Z value of 0.466. Average of the Fischer's Z value is the calculated and converted to Pearson r which is the then converted to coefficient of determination  $r_2 = 0.112896$  which is used as the coefficient determination in G\*power (Refer to Appendix A). The value generated by G\*power is then input into correlation coefficient = 0.336 (Refer to Appendix A).

# **Data Collection Procedure**

#### **Pilot Test Procedure**

A pilot study assesses the feasibility and methodology of a potential research using a smaller scale thus evaluate the recruitment process. It will also help researchers of this potential study to be familiar with the design, methods and procedures thus providing vital data and contribute to ensuring success of this research (In, 2017). The pilot study entailed the selection of a diverse sample comprising 30-35 young adults (In, 2017) aged 18 to 25 with biological parents, who have experienced childhood exposure to domestic violence within Malaysia.

The pilot test was conducted from 9<sup>th</sup> February 2024 to 17<sup>th</sup> February 2024. Utilizing the Qualtrics XM online platform, the survey incorporated validated instruments—the Parent Adult Relationship Questionnaire (PARQ) and Childhood Exposure to Domestic Violence (CEDV) scale. Participants were collected through online platforms Discord, Reddit and Instagram. Following the process of data cleansing, a total of 35 eligible participants were identified and included in the pilot study dataset. Rigorous data analysis was performed with IBM SPSS, a statistical analysis software to analyze any statistical data bound to be obtained. Data collection was also evaluated to assess response quality, survey clarity, and technical

functionality. Post-survey feedback collection from participants was integral in refining the instruments and procedures, with a focus on question clarity, relevance, and platform usability.

Upon initial access to the pilot test survey link via online platforms, participants will be presented with details concerning the confidentiality and safeguarding of their identity and data. Following this, participants will be prompted to provide consent regarding the processing of their personal information. Upon consenting, participants will proceed to provide demographic information and then proceed to respond to the main survey questions. These questions will encompass three measurements evaluating the study variables: childhood exposure to domestic violence, parent-child relationship, and resilience.

# Actual Test Procedure

An online survey was developed to serve as a tool for gathering data from participants. Respondents are anticipated to allocate approximately 10 to 15 minutes to complete this English version online survey. Data collection for the actual test was started on 17<sup>th</sup> of February 2024 and ended on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2024. These participants were selected based on the sampling methods of purposive sampling and snowball sampling through various platforms, including community centers, support groups, and predominantly through social media such as WhatsApp, Instagram, Discord, Twitter, LinkedIn, Facebook, and Reddit emphasizing the voluntary nature of participation and the study's confidentiality measures. Moreover, participants are urged to distribute the survey link to other individuals who have encountered domestic violence, extending the reach of the study to a broader audience with similar experiences.

An informed consent form was developed, explicitly detailing the research objectives, potential risks and benefits, and participant rights along with the protection of privacy and

confidentiality of personal identification. The procedures of obtaining consent were included in the beginning of the survey as an informed consent form was designed using Qualtrics. The consent form first began with an information sheet informing the participants of the vulnerable and sensitive topics to be discussed in the study. It also included the reason it is important for the participants to understand the purpose of the study. Next the objectives of the research along with a brief context and background of the study was outlined meticulously.

Before commencing data collection, the research obtained ethical clearance from the UTAR Scientific and Ethical Review Committee (SERC) under reference number U/SERC/78-209/2024. Given the focus on young adults who have undergone childhood exposure to domestic violence, a demographic considered vulnerable, strict ethical measures are implemented to safeguard participant identity, privacy, and confidentiality, as well as to mitigate any potential threats or harm they may encounter during their participation in the survey (Moffitt, 2013).Upon the completion of the informed consent form with the choice of proceeding with the survey, will direct the participants to a new page then only the questionnaire begins.

The survey that was facilitated through the online platform, Qualtrics XM will incorporate the validated instruments — the Parent Adult Relationship Questionnaire (PARQ), Childhood Exposure to Domestic Violence (CEDV) scale and Protective factors for Resilience scale (PFRS). Allocated time will be provided for participants to complete the survey, and subsequent feedback will be collected. Upon concluding the survey, the participation of individuals in the present study was finalized.

#### Instruments/Questionnaire

# Parent Adult-Child Relationship Questionnaire (PARQ)

The Parent Adult Relationship Questionnaire (PARQ) was crafted by Pitzer et al. (2011) as a tool to gauge the dynamics within parent-child relationships. Comprising two subscales, each with four items, it delves into both positive and negative perspectives regarding the child's rapport with their parents. Originally designed for separate assessments of mothers and fathers, this study, with the authors' consent, consolidates them under the term "parents" to align with its specific research goals. This decision finds support in Graaf et al.'s (2018) study, highlighting a high correlation between mothers and fathers in parenting styles and behaviors. The scale employs a 5-point point Likert scale (1 = "never", 2 = "rarely", 3 = "sometimes", 4= "often", 5 = "always"), calculating total scores where higher values on either subscale denote a stronger positive or negative parent-child relationship. Test-retest reliability assessments by the original authors reveal a .77 and .85 consistency for positive subscales concerning mothers and fathers, respectively. Similarly, negative subscales exhibit .73 and .80 consistency for mothers and fathers. Internal consistency, assessed through Cronbach's alpha, demonstrates values of .79 and .88 for positive subscales, and .72 and .78 for negative subscales in mothers and fathers at Time 1. At Time 2, these values shift slightly to .83 and .91 for positive subscales and .79 and .80 for negative subscales in mothers and fathers, respectively (Pitzer et al., 2011). The scale's validity has been affirmed in local contexts, notably in the study by Leong and Juhari (2021). Moreover, its application has extended to research involving young adults as indicated in prior studies utilizing this scale (Pitzer et al., 2011).

#### Childhood Exposure to Domestic Violence (CEDV) scale

The assessment of Childhood Exposure to Domestic Violence experienced by young

adults will be gauged through the CEDV, designed by Edleson et al. (2007). This instrument encompasses various subscales, including Exposure to Intimate Partner Violence at Home (consisting of 10 items), Child Involvement in Home Violence (comprising 6 items), Other Risk Factors (with 4 items), Child Community Violence Exposure (comprising 7 items), and Other Victimization (consisting of 4 items), in total consisting of 33 items. As reported by Edleson et al. (2007), the alpha coefficient stands at .71, indicating a moderate level of internal consistency. The scale employs a 4-point Likert scale, denoting responses from never (0) to always almost (3), allowing for a potential score range of 0-99, with higher scores indicating greater exposure to violence. The CEDV scale has demonstrated strong reliability across diverse populations worldwide, showing consistently high Cronbach's coefficients in numerous studies, ranging from 0.79 to 0.97 (Grip et al., 2014; Fainsilber Katz et al., 2015). Its validity has been corroborated in localized settings, such as the development of the Malay version by Norazman et al. (2023), achieving strong content and face validity exceeding 0.80. Furthermore, this scale has been utilized in studies involving young adults, as evidenced by prior research (Cater et al., 2015; Feroz et al., 2015).

# **Protective Factors for Resilience Scale (PFRS)**

Protective Factors for Resilience Scale (PFRS) introduced by Harms et al. (2017), serves as an instrument to assess an individual's capacity to navigate stress and adversity by tapping into both personal and social resources. Harms et al. (2017) conceptualized resilience as the effective utilization of internal and external assets when facing various challenges. Comprising 20 items, the PFRS is structured around three key dimensions: personal resources (PR), social resources within the family (SR-F), and social resources among peers (SR-P). Participants provide ratings for each item using a 7-point Likert scale, spanning from 1 (strongly disagree) to 7 (strongly agree). The cumulative scores offer insights into the extent of an individual's psychosocial and personal resources for resilience, with higher scores indicating a greater capacity for coping (Harms et al., 2017). The psychometric robustness of the PFRS has been demonstrated, with internal reliability assessed through Cronbach's alpha, yielding a commendable value of 0.931 (Harms et al., 2017). This underscores the scale's consistency in measuring the intended constructs and reinforces its credibility as a reliable tool for assessing resilience factors.

#### Chapter IV

# Results

# **Data Cleaning Procedure**

The study initially included 300 respondents from the survey distribution and collection. First 4 responses were deleted as they are trial tests or previews during survey development. Pilot test data of 35 respondents were removed. 3 responses exceeding age limitation, 3 responses of invalid country, and 17 incomplete responses were excluded for the study. 57 univariate outliers were detected and removed. Thus 181 respondents remain for the current analysis.

# Univariate outliers

Upon examining the boxplot for all variables, 57 univariate outliers that significantly deviated from the boxplot whiskers were discovered from all of the scales combined and were subsequently eliminated altogether from the analysis.

# **Descriptive Statistics**

# **Descriptive Statistics for Demographics**

# Table 4.1

Variable	Ν	%	
Age (18-25)	181	100	
Sex			
Male	56	30.94	
Female	114	63.01	

Demographic Information of Respondents (N=181)

Prefer not to say	11	6.08
Race		
Malay	38	20.99
Indian	81	44.75
Chinese	53	29.28
Others	9	4.98
Nationality		
Malaysian	181	100
Country of Origin		
Malaysia	181	100
Occupation		
Student	119	65.74
Employed	31	17.13
Unemployed	31	17.13
Parental Relationhip		
<b>Biological Parents</b>	181	100

The current respondents for the study comprised of 181 Malaysian young adults of age 18 to 25 years old. 63.01% (N=114) of the respondents are female, 30.94% (N=56) are males and the remaining 6.08% (N=11) chose not to say. In addition, all 181 respondents are of Malaysian nationality with origins from the country of Malaysia. As for race, the respondents for the study are from a diverse ethnic background. 20.99% (N=38) are of Malay race, 44.75% (N=81) are Indians, and 29.28% (N=53) are Chinese. As for occupation, the respondents also comprised of 119 students pusuing their education. 31 respondents are engaged in employment whilst the remaining 31 are unemployed. Furthermore, the parental

relationship of all 181 repondents are subjected to biological parents. These demographics classifications are analyzed to provide a better understanding and valuable insights of the distribution in each category as shown in Table 4.1.

# **Descriptive Statistics among Variables**

# Table 4.2

Scales	N	Min	Max	М	SD
Protective Factors of	181	69	105	100.74	8.91
Resilience					
Childhood Exposure to	181	37	126	100.01	22.48
Domestic Violence					
Positive Parent-Adult	181	4	20	10.59	4.38
Child Relationship					
Negative Parent-Adult	181	4	20	17.72	4.26
Child Relationship					

Descriptive Statistics among Variable (N=181)

Note. Min = Minimum; Max = Maximum; M = Mean; SD = Standard Deviation

Table 4.2 portrays the descriptive statistics for each of the scales. The present study consists of four scales, consisting of three independent variables namely childhood exposure to domestic violence (M = 100.01, SD = 22.48), Positive Parent-Adult Child Relationship (M = 10.59, SD = 4.38) and Negative Parent-Adult Child Relationship (M = 17.72, SD = 4.26) along with one dependent variable known as Protective Factors of Resilience (M = 100.74, SD = 8.91).

#### **Reliability Value for Pilot Test and Actual Test**

# Table 4.3

Comparison Measurement of Reliability Values for Pilot Test (N = 35) and Actual Test (N =

181)

Reliability Statistics	Pilot Te	st	Actual	Test
	(N = 35)	)	(N = 18	81)
Scale	Items	α	Items	α
Positive Parent-Adult Relationship	4	.957	4	.742
Negative Parent-Adult Relationship	4	.881	4	.964
Childhood Exposure to Domestic Violence	33	.978	33	.968
Protective Factors of Resilience	20	.736	15	.949

#### *Note*. $\alpha$ = Cronbach's Alpha

The table above shows the values of reliability for both the pilot test and actual test procedure. According to table 4.1, the Positive Parent-Adult Relationship Questionnaire indicated a value of .957 for pilot test and .742 for actual test. The Negative Parent-Adult Relationship Questionnaire reported a value of .881 for pilot test and .964 for actual test. Next, the Childhood Exposure to Domestic Violence indicated a value of .978 for pilot test and .968 for the actual test. Thus, it denotes a high similarity between the items and all items measures the same construct. Finally, the Protective Factors of Resilience reported a value of .736 on a 20-item scale. Items 4, 8, 11, 15, 19 were negatively answered thus impacted the correlation in terms of have the least item-rest correlation indicating a low similarity. These 5 items are the least important items hence are removed for the actual test procedure forming a 15-item scale. The reliability value reported for the actual test is .949. Therefore, as all the Cronbach's Alpha values of the scales for pilot test and actual test are within the range of .70

to .95, it further indicates the scales portrayed good to excellent reliability (Tavakol and Dennick, 2011).

#### **Assumptions on Normal Distribution**

In the current study, a few meticulous measures were employed to assess the normal distribution assumptions. The measures included; skewness and kurtosis, P-P plot, histogram and the Kolmogorov-Smirnov test (K-S test).

#### **Skewness and Kurtosis**

The table below shows the summary of the skewness and kurtosis for all variables (refer to appendix B). Hair et al. (2010) and Bryne (2010) mentioned that skewness values between -2 to +2 and kurtosis values between -7 to +7 is considered acceptable. With that, the values for Positive, Negative PARQ and CEDV falls within the acceptable range for a normal distribution. In addition to that, after an intricate analysis of existing literatures, a study recommended that the absolute values of Skewness should not surpass 3 whilst the absolute values for Kurtosis should not surpass 10 (Ibrahim & Shariff, 2014). With that, the values for PFRS as well demostrates values well below the magnitude recommended hence affirming the reliability and validity of the present findings.

#### Table 4.4

	PPARQ	NPARQ	CEDV	PFRS
Skewness	.042	-1.905	-1.737	-2.087
Kurtosis	423	2.681	1.536	3.300

Summary of Skewness Value and Kurtosis Value

#### **P-P Plot**

Appendix C to F portrays the P-P Plots for the analysis. The Positive Parent-Adult Child Relationship appears to meet the assumption of normality as illustrated by the points clustering closely along the diagonal line. However, the Negative Parent-Adult Child Relationship, Childhood Exposure to Domestic Violence and Protective Factors of Resilience seems to violate the assumption of normality with the points not falling along the diagonal line in a fitting manner.

#### Histogram

Appendix G to J illustrates the non-normal distribution of variables in this study. Particularly, Appendix G shows Childhood Exposure to Domestic Violence is right-skewed while Appendix H shows Protective Factors of Resilience is also right-skewed. Appendix I of Positive Parent-Adult Relationship Questionnaire shows an asymmetrical skewness whilst Appendix J of Negative Parent-Adult Relatioship Questionnaire shows a right skewed distribution. Thus, Childhood Exposure to Domestic Violence, Protective Factors of Resilience and Negative Parent-Adult Relatioship Questionnaire shows violations of assumptions of normality in terms of the histograms.

# Kolmogorov-Smirnov test (K-S test)

The Kolmogorov-Smirnov test (K-S Test) shows that Positive Parent-Adult Child Relationship resulted in D (181) = .176, p=000. Whilst the Negative Parent-Adult Child Relationship resulted in D (181) = .405, p=000. Childhood Exposure to Domestic Violence indicated a result of D (181) = .341, p=000. Protective Factors of Resilience indicated D (181) = .441, p=000. This shows that the current study is statistically significant as it deviates from the normal distribution. Thus, indicating that the current study analysis is a significant non-normal distribution (refer to appendix K)

#### **Conclusion for Assumption of Normality**

According to the analysis conducted based on skewness and kurtosis, it shows no violation of the assumptions of normality. Nonetheless, there are assumptions violations in the histograms, P-P Plots and Kolmogorov-Smirnov Test. With that, as most assumptions show violations, it is deduced that the variables are non-normal.

# **Data Transformation**

As the analysis portrays a non-normal distribution, data transformation was conducted to potentially approximate a more normal distribution. Logarithmic and Box-Cox transformations was employed to compress and maximize the normality however after further assessment into the graphical presentations of the data (Refer to appendix C to J) and the Shapiro-Wilk Test (Refer to appendix K), there is sufficient evidence to deduce that the current study significantly deviates from a normal distribution. The Shapiro-Wilk Test portrayed p-values with less than .05 for all variables thus strictly indicating a non-normal distribution (Mishra et al., 2019). With that, Spearman's Rank Correlation, a non-parametric test will be utilized to analyze the relationship between the independent variables and dependent variable.

# **Spearman's Rank Correlation**

## Table 4.5

Spearma	un's rho	CEDV	PRFS	PPARQ	NPARQ
CEDV	Correlation Coefficient	1.000	.640	486**	.505**
	Sig. (2 tailed)		.000	.000	.000
PFRS	Correlation Coefficient	.640	1.000	398	.716**
	Sig. (2 tailed)	.000		.000	.000

PPARQ	Correlation Coefficient	486**	398	1.000	349**
	Sig. (2 tailed)	.000	.000		.000
NPARQ	Correlation Coefficient	.505**	.716**	349**	1.000
	Sig. (2 tailed)	.000	.000	.000	

\*\*. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed)

Spearman's Rank Correlation was utilized to examine the direction and magnitude of relationship between two variables in a study. The positive and negative values of correlation coefficient ( $\rho$ ) indicate the direction of positive and negative whilst the p-value less than .05 is considered statistically significant (p < .05). Based on table 3, there is a strong positive significant correlation between Resilience and Childhood Exposure to Domestic Violence ( $\rho$  = 0.640; p < 0.05). There is a moderate negative significant correlation between Resilience and Positive Parent-Adult Child Relationship ( $\rho$  -0.398; p < 0.05). Finally, there is a strong positive significant correlation between Resilience and Negative Parent-Adult Child Relationship ( $\rho$  = 0.716; p < 0.05).

# **Summary of Findings**

# Table 4.6

Table of Result Summary

Hypotheses	ρ	p-value	Decision
H1: There is a significant	0.640	0.000	Supported
correlation between childhood			
exposure to domestic violence			
and resilience in young adults			
in Malaysia.			

H2: There is a significant	-0.398	0.000	Supported
correlation between positive			
parent-child relationships and			
resilience in young adults in			
Malaysia.			
H3. There is a significant	0.716	0.000	Supported
H3. There is a significant correlation between negative	0.716	0.000	Supported
-	0.716	0.000	Supported
correlation between negative	0.716	0.000	Supported
correlation between negative parent-child relationships and	0.716	0.000	Supported

#### **CHAPTER V**

# Discussion

The primary aim of this research was to investigate the correlation of childhood exposure to domestic violence, positive and negative parent- child relationship on resilience among young adults in Malaysia. The discussion is organized according to the hypotheses of this study.

# H1: There is a significant correlation between childhood exposure to domestic violence and resilience in young adults in Malaysia.

Based on the results of this study, the hypothesis above is accepted. There is a significant positive correlation between childhood exposure to domestic violence and resilience among young adults in Malaysia. This bring in light the meaning that when young adults are exposed to domestic violence during their childhood experience higher levels of resilience. Results of this current study is consistent with past studies which reported a claim of that childhood exposure to domestic violence has an affect resilience in young adults (Collishaw et al., 2007; Martinez-Torteya et al., 2009; Tiet et al., 1998).

Given that the population under study is non-clinical, we can elucidate the rationale behind their higher resilience levels. This can be attributed to several factors, including positive peer affiliations, effective emotional regulation, and elevated self-esteem, as suggested by Collishaw et al. (2007). Additionally, non-clinical individuals exposed to domestic violence have shown greater resilience compared to clinical populations, as indicated by Jenney et al. (2016). Therefore, it is plausible to attribute the heightened resilience observed in our non-clinical sample to these factors. This notion is bolstered by Frey et al. (2017), which suggests that young adults who have experienced violence often navigate these challenges by finding empowerment within their peer relationships. This empowerment within peer dynamics contributes to what's known as vicarious resilience, where individuals draw strength and resilience from observing the resilience of others. These findings emphasize the importance of supporting advocates in fostering positive peer relationships among individuals who have experienced violence, as these relationships play a crucial role in promoting resilience and coping strategies. Another factor worth considering in this study is the heightened emotional regulation observed in young adults. Sheffler et al. (2019) discovered that individuals who experienced childhood adversities, such as exposure to domestic violence, exhibited increased levels of emotional regulation as they transitioned from adolescence to young adulthood. This enhanced ability to regulate emotions enables these young adults to develop greater resilience, equipping them with coping mechanisms to navigate future adversities more effectively (Bonanno et al., 2015). In addition, the experience of witnessing domestic violence during childhood among young adults can be attributed to either parent. Levendosky et al. (2011) suggests that establishing a secure attachment, particularly with the mother, can play a crucial role in mitigating the adverse effects of such exposure. This secure attachment fosters resilience in young adults as they navigate through their childhood experience. Conversely, an insecure attachment with both parents in the context of adversity may result in diminished resilience.

Furthermore, another potential explanation for the positive correlation between childhood exposure to domestic violence and resilience is the self-reliance of young adults. As indicated in a qualitative study by Leung et al. (2020), emerging adults who have faced childhood adversity often exhibit resilience by being self-reliant, particularly in alignment with their cultural perspectives on self-reliance. However, the study also notes that this selfreliance may hinder the development of self-compassion and limit the ability to seek social support, serving as a self-righting mechanism that inhibits accessing external sources of assistance. Hence, while self-reliance after adversity can signify strong resilience, it's crucial to acknowledge that in the Malaysian setting, characterized by a collectivist culture, young adults may seek support from their families to the principle of filial piety, as highlighted by Nainee et al. (2021).

According to Gewirtz and Edleson (2004), an alternative explanation suggests that resilience can emerge as a survival mechanism in response to persistent adversity. Children exposed to domestic violence may develop adaptive skills and persistence to safeguard themselves and their siblings. With time, these adaptive behaviors can become ingrained, ultimately fostering greater resilience during young adulthood. Wright et al. (2016) further support this explanation by highlighting how young adults cultivate resilience in the face of domestic violence, particularly when it is perpetrated by their own family. Their findings suggest that experiencing such adversity motivates young adults, especially when they become parents themselves, to break the cycle of violence. Hence, despite being exposed to domestic violence during childhood, young adults exhibit elevated levels of resilience, primarily owing to the resources accessible to them and a collective determination to break the cycle of adversity. This resilience stems from a sense of empowerment to address their past experiences and forge ahead with their lives, transcending the challenges they encountered.

# H2. There is a significant correlation between positive parent-child relationship and resilience in young adults in Malaysia.

The findings of this study support the hypothesis outlined above. There is a significant negative correlation between positive parent-child relationship and resilience among young adults in Malaysia. This brings in light the meaning that young adults who experience positive relationships with their parent's is negatively related to their resilience. This study's results align with previous research by Xu et al. (2023), Bruysters & Pilkington (2022), and

Okwori (2022), which similarly reported a claim that positive parent-child relationship has a negative relationship with resilience. One possible explanation for this counterintuitive relationship is the presence of overprotective tendencies within positive parent-child relationships.

According to research by Reitman & Asseff (2010), while positive parent-child relationships are typically characterized by warmth and closeness, they may also exhibit overprotective tendencies. Despite the apparent positivity in these relationships, children with overprotective parents often demonstrate lower levels of resilience and heightened anxiety when confronted with unfamiliar situations. This trend persists into young adulthood, particularly as individuals strive for independence from their parents and lack the protective buffer they once relied upon. Supporting this assertion, Lind et al. (2017) found that parental warmth correlated positively with increased resilience in children, whereas parental protectiveness was linked to decreased resilience. Furthermore, their study identified a noteworthy interaction between severe childhood sexual abuse and parental authoritarianism, revealing that individuals who experienced childhood sexual abuse alongside higher levels of parental authoritarianism exhibited lower levels of resilience. This claim is also further established through the study by Bruysters & Pilkington (2022) who also found that maternal overprotection leads to lower levels of resilience which in turn leads to social isolation and alienation as these children transition to adulthood. Furthermore, Segrin et al. (2013) revealed that adults who perceive overprotectiveness from their parents tend to exhibit higher levels of narcissism and employ less effective coping strategies. These maladaptive coping mechanisms, characterized by internalizing issues or creating emotional distance, are associated with increased anxiety and stress among young adults, ultimately diminishing their resilience levels.

The concept of "Helicopter parenting" (Muljadi et al., 2018), characterized by high

levels of involvement and overprotection as well as over perfectionism, emerges as a plausible explanation for the observed negative correlation. Lanjekar (2022) suggests that excessive emotional reliance stemming from positive parent-child relationships can hinder young adults' independence and obstruct the acquisition of crucial coping skills and selfassurance. Additionally, Xiao Qing Low and Shue Ling Chong (2023) emphasize the pervasive influence of helicopter parenting within Malaysian culture, where children may exhibit lower resilience despite maintaining positive relationships with their parents. In light of these findings, it becomes clear that while positive parent-child relationships are invaluable, there's a crucial need to strike a delicate balance between fostering warmth and closeness and providing opportunities for autonomy and independence. This balance is particularly evident within the Malaysian context, as supported by the study conducted by Tan et al. (2018). The study by Tan et al. (2018) underscores the importance of finding this equilibrium in the Malaysian context. It highlights the significance of parental involvement and support while also emphasizing the need for children to develop independence and resilience. This study aligns with the broader discussion surrounding the implications of positive parent-child relationships on resilience. Therefore, while parental warmth and support are essential, excessive involvement and overprotection can hinder young adults' ability to develop resilience.

# H3. There is a significant correlation between negative parent-child relationships and resilience in young adults in Malaysia.

Based on the results of this study, the hypothesis above is accepted. There is a significant positive correlation between negative parent-child relationship and resilience among young adults in Malaysia. This brings into meaning that young adults who experience negative parent-child relationship experience positive resilience outcome. Results of this

current study is consistent with past studies which have reported a claim that young adults who experience negative parent-child relationship report greater resilience (Dube et al., 2013; Lan & Wang, 2019; Masten, 2001).

One plausible explanation for the observed correlation lies within the framework of protective factors of resilience. This framework suggests that individuals who face challenges within their familial relationships may develop coping mechanisms and adaptive strategies through strong social support (Li et al., 2021), peer support (Lan & Wang, 2019) as well as optimism (Korkeilä et al., 2004) to enhance their resilience. Schwarz et al. (2005) also note that a negative parent-child relationship does not necessarily entail violence but often reflects a lack of emotional support, warmth and connection between young adults and their parents. Such relationships are characterized by parental criticism and a deficiency in affection, contributing to negative perceptions of the relationship by the young adults involved. These young adults build their resilience through other sources as reported by Li et al. (2021) young adults who have access to a strong social support which fosters a sense of belonging and acceptance. This sense of belonging provides individuals with a source of identity, purpose, and affirmation, which can bolster self-esteem and resilience in the face of adversity. Armstrong et al. (2005) reported that children who experience emotional difficulties as a result of negative parent-child relationships report higher levels of resilience developed through the buffering effect of social support which acts as a protective mechanism. Along with the strong social support, young adults who also experience peer support and strong relations with their friends report higher resilience even in the face of experiencing family problems (Fu et al., 2023). These young adults often go to their friends when the experience conflict with their parents to seek a sense of belongingness and validation and to counter the negative impact.

Moreover, it is important to consider that the young adults in our study may be

encountering a negative parent-child relationship with only one of their biological parents. Fernandes et al. (2021) reported that children can develop a negative relationship and insecure attachment with one parent while maintaining a positive relationship and secure attachment with the other parent. This insight sheds light on how even when faced with a challenging relationship with one parent, the presence of a supportive relationship with the other parent can contribute to the development of resilience among young adults. According to Kiernan (1992) young adults despite their gender tend to leave their homes due to friction at home resulting from negative-parent child relationships. Another study by Szydlik (2016) is in line with corroborates these findings suggesting that children who experienced negative parent-child relationships develop resilience through optimism to steer away from their parents. Often times a negative parent-child relationship develops independence though resilience in young adults in the hope of escaping from such a relationship. Young adults experiencing negative parent-child relationships may paradoxically develop resilience through these interactions. McLean and Thorne (2003) conducted a study where college students were asked to recall significant memories shaping their identities, with many recalling instances of conflict with their parents. This suggests that despite the challenges posed by such relationships, individuals can draw strength and resilience from navigating conflicts with their parents. Consistent with this study increased negative parent-child relationships relates to resilience for young adults.

# **Theoretical Implication**

The findings of this study represent a significant extension of the application of attachment theory, showcasing its relevance in elucidating the complex interplay between childhood exposure to domestic violence, positive and negative parent-child relationships, and resilience among young adults in Malaysia. By demonstrating the role of attachment

processes in shaping resilience outcomes within the context of adverse childhood experiences and family dynamics, this study contributes to a deeper understanding of how early life experiences impact psychological adaptation and coping strategies later in life which is an area that is under-researched especially in Malaysia. As proof, the relationship of childhood exposure to domestic, positive and negative parent-child relationship and resilience is mostly studied in children and adolescents (Alaggia & Donohue, 2017; Holt et al., 2008; Soleimanpour et al.,2017) and not young adults specifically and therefore, this study fills an existing gap in knowledge, providing valuable insights for future researchers to build upon.

Moving forward, future research endeavors could build upon these findings by delving deeper into the underlying mechanisms through which various dimensions of parentchild relationships influence resilience outcomes. For example, studies could explore the specific attachment styles (e.g., secure, insecure) exhibited by individuals exposed to domestic violence and their subsequent implications for resilience. Additionally, research could investigate the mediating and moderating factors that may influence the relationship between parent-child relationships and resilience, such as individual differences in coping strategies, social support networks, and cultural factors.

This study makes a notable contribution by highlighting that both positive and negative parent-child relationships can coexist within an individual's life. This concept has received limited attention in previous research, as noted by Branje (2018) and Ruhl et al. (2015). Therefore, the identification of this coexistence of variables serves as a valuable addition to the research literature, providing a rich resource for future researchers to reference and explore further. Moreover, this study offers insights into how a negative parent-child relationship can paradoxically foster resilience among young adults, contrary to the findings of Tamura (2018), which suggested a negative relationship between such relationships and resilience. This contradictory perspective highlights the complexity of parent-child dynamics and resilience outcomes, underscoring the need for further investigation in this area. By addressing this research gap, the study contributes valuable knowledge for future researchers interested in exploring the impact of negative parent-child relationships on resilience among young adults in Malaysia.

# **Practical Implication**

The findings of this research can be served as a source for developing awarenessraising campaigns as well as intervention programs. Given the significant positive correlation between childhood exposure to domestic violence and resilience among young adults in Malaysia, intervention programs should be developed to provide support and resources to individuals who have experienced such adversity. These programs can include counseling services, support groups, and skill-building workshops aimed at enhancing emotional regulation and coping mechanisms. Additionally, it's crucial for these interventions to consider the cultural context of Malaysia and incorporate culturally sensitive approaches to effectively address the needs of these young adults.

Recognizing the collectivist culture and principle of filial piety in Malaysia, interventions should be culturally sensitive and respectful of family dynamics. While promoting independence and self-reliance is important, it's equally crucial to acknowledge the value of familial support and the role of family relationships in resilience development. Interventions should aim to strengthen family bonds and encourage open communication within families while also empowering young adults to seek external support when needed.

Additionally, this research has the potential to serve as a valuable resource for policymakers, offering insights and ideas that could aid in the development of effective policies to mitigate and tackle domestic violence issues within Malaysian families. This includes initiatives focused on increasing awareness, providing access to resources for

victims, and enforcing legal protections. By creating a supportive environment that prioritizes the well-being of families and individuals affected by domestic violence, policymakers can contribute to the development of a resilient society in Malaysia. The findings regarding the negative correlation between positive parent-child relationships and resilience highlight the importance of parental education and support programs. Parents should be educated about the detrimental effects of overprotective tendencies and encouraged to strike a balance between warmth and autonomy in their relationships with their children. Providing parents with guidance on effective communication strategies and conflict resolution techniques can help foster healthy parent-child relationships conducive to resilience development.

# Limitations

This research offers valuable insights onto the relationship of childhood exposure to domestic violence, positive and negative parent-child relationship on resilience in young adults in Malaysia. Nonetheless, it is essential to recognize and address the study's inherent limitations.

One limitation of this study is that it focused solely on a non-clinical population of young adults in Malaysia. While this population provides valuable insights into the resilience of individuals who have not sought clinical intervention, it excludes those who may be undergoing treatment or therapy for mental health issues related to domestic violence. Moreover, individuals who have experienced domestic violence but are not part of clinical populations have demonstrated higher levels of resilience in comparison to those who are clinically diagnosed, as evidenced by research conducted by Jenney et al. (2016). Therefore, the findings may not fully capture the experiences and resilience levels of young adults receiving clinical support, limiting the generalizability of the results to a broader population.

Another one of the study's limitations pertains to the unequal distribution of gender among participants. Our findings reveal that out of the total 181 participants, only 56 are male. Additionally, there is unequal representation across ethnicities, with a predominant number of Indian participants totaling 81, while there are 38 Malays and 53 Chinese. This disparity in gender and ethnicity representation poses a limitation on the generalizability of the study's findings. Given Malaysia's diverse population characterized by distinct cultural norms, values, and family dynamics across ethnic groups and regions, the extent to which the findings can be generalized to all young adults in Malaysia may be limited.

Moreover, the study's reliance on cross-sectional data limits its ability to capture the long-term effects of childhood exposure to domestic violence on resilience and parent-child relationships. Longitudinal studies tracking participants over an extended period would provide more robust evidence regarding the developmental trajectories of resilience and the dynamic nature of parent-child relationships. Such longitudinal data would allow researchers to assess how resilience evolves over time and how it influences parent-child dynamics into adulthood.

# Recommendations

To address the limitations highlighted, it is recommended that future studies focus on recruiting a clinical population with an equal distribution across different ethnicities, genders, and clinical settings. By adopting a stratified sampling approach, researchers can ensure a more diverse representation of respondents, thereby reducing bias and increasing the generalizability of the study findings (Parsons, 2017). This approach would allow for a more comprehensive exploration of the impact of childhood exposure to domestic violence on resilience and parent-child relationships among individuals seeking clinical intervention. Additionally, collaborating with local NGOs, shelters, and counseling centers that work with individuals affected by domestic violence to ensure access to a wider pool of participants and

enhance the validity and relevance of the study findings to individuals receiving support for domestic violence.

In future research, employing mixed-methods approaches—integrating quantitative surveys with qualitative interviews or focus groups—can offer a more comprehensive understanding of young adults' experiences with childhood exposure to domestic violence, particularly within the Malaysian context. While quantitative surveys capture data on resilience levels and relationship dynamics, qualitative interviews delve deeper into participants' lived experiences, emotional responses, and coping mechanisms, allowing for a culturally sensitive exploration of the topic. By triangulating these data sources, researchers can gain nuanced insights into the interplay between domestic violence, parent-child relationships, and resilience in the Malaysian context, informing more effective interventions, support programs, and policy initiatives aimed at promoting the well-being of young adults affected by domestic violence.

Additionally, there could be various other factors influencing the heightened prevalence of resilience among young adults who have encountered childhood exposure to domestic violence. Further investigation into these additional factors could offer valuable insights into effective approaches for addressing the impact of resilience stemming from childhood exposure to domestic violence within this demographic. This expanded research scope would provide a more comprehensive understanding of the factors shaping resilience among young adults in Malaysia. Moreover, examining the diverse parenting styles experienced by these young adults in the context of domestic violence could offer deeper insights into resilience outcomes, thereby enhancing our understanding of parent-child relationships.

# Conclusion

In conclusion, this study sheds light on the impact of between childhood exposure to domestic violence, positive and negative parent-child relationships on resilience among young adults in Malaysia. The findings confirm a significant positive correlation between childhood exposure to domestic violence and resilience, highlighting the adaptive coping mechanisms young adults develop in response to early adversity. Additionally, the study reveals a nuanced relationship between positive and negative parent-child relationships and resilience, with positive relationships showing a negative correlation and negative relationships showing a positive correlation. These unexpected findings underscore the complexity of familial dynamics and their impact on resilience outcomes.

Theoretical implications of this study extend the application of attachment theory, demonstrating its relevance in understanding how early life experiences shape psychological adaptation and coping strategies in young adulthood. By delving into the mechanisms through which parent-child relationships influence resilience, this study contributes to filling a gap in the literature, particularly within the Malaysian context. Practical implications highlight the need for tailored intervention programs and policy initiatives to support individuals affected by domestic violence and foster healthy parent-child relationships conducive to resilience development.

Despite its contributions, the study acknowledges several limitations, including its focus on a non-clinical sample and unequal gender and ethnicity representations. Moreover, the reliance on cross-sectional data limits the ability to capture long-term effects. Recommendations for future research include recruiting a more diverse clinical population, employing mixed methods approaches, and exploring additional factors influencing resilience outcomes.

In essence, this study underscores the importance of understanding the multifaceted

nature of resilience and its intricate relationship with childhood experiences and familial dynamics. By addressing these complexities, future research and interventions can better support the well-being of young adults affected by domestic violence in Malaysia and beyond.

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### Appendices

## Appendix A: Sample Size Calculation

## **Appendix A1: Correlation Calculation**

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1 Resilience		23**	28**	28**	25**	21**	.34**	07**	05*	09**	.15**	.11**	05*
2 Childhood adversity			.27*	.27**	.24**	.28**	37**	.12**	.01	.07**	11**	16**	.11**
3 Distress (PHQ4)				.94**	.94**	.60**	25**	.14**	.12**	.12**	07**	20**	.10**
4 Depression					.76**	.56**	25**	.14**	.07**	.13**	08**	19**	.13**
5 Anxiety						.56**	21**	.12**	.15**	.10**	05*	18**	.06**
6 Somatic symptoms							25**	.38**	.12**	.04*	11**	23**	.02
7 Social support								11**	.03	24**	.05**	.26**	13**
8 Age									.03	12**	12**	21**	08**
9 Sex										.08**	05**	12**	04*
10 Partnership											03	34**	.04
11 Education												.13**	07**
12 Income													20**
13 Experienced unemployment													

Note: Pearson correlation coefficients;

## For Childhood Exposure to Domestic Violence,

r = 0.23

After converting into Fischer Z = 0.2339

Criterion Variable					
Prediction Variables	R	$\mathbf{R}^2$	В	β	<b>P</b> <
Acceptance-involvement			1.27	0.42	0.00
Psychological autonomy-granting	0.44	0.19	-0.08	-0.04	N.S
Behavioral strictness-supervision			0.29	0.07	N.S

## For Parent-Child Relationship,

 $R^2 = 0.19$ 

After converting into Fischer Z = 0.466

Average of Fischer Z = (0.2339 + 0.466)/2

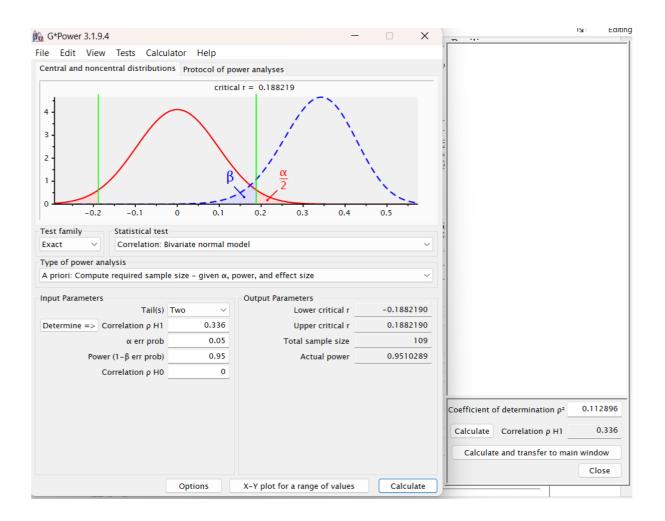
= 0.34995

After converting back average Fischer Z to Pearson r = 0.3360

Coefficient of determination  $= r^2$ 

 $= 0.3360^2$ 

= 0.112896



## Appendix A2: G\*Power Sample Size Calculation

Total Sample Size = 109

109+20% = 131

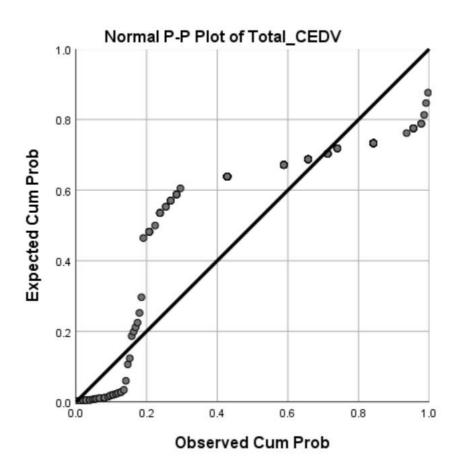
## **Appendix B: Descriptive Statistics**

## **Descriptive Statistics**

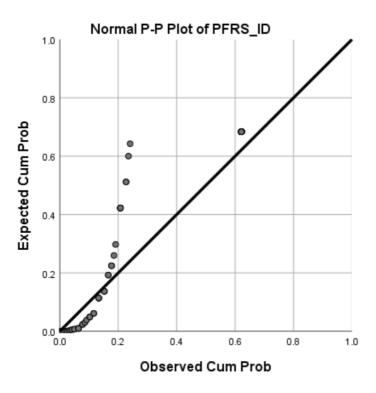
	Ν	Skew	ness	Kurt	osis
	Statistic	Statistic	Std. Error	Statistic	Std. Error
Total_CEDV	181	-1.737	.181	1.536	.359
PFRS_ID	181	-2.087	.181	3.300	.359
Total_Positive_PARQ	181	.042	.181	423	.359
Total_Negative_PARQ	181	-1.905	.181	2.681	.359
Valid N (listwise)	181				

## Appendix C: CEDV P-P Plot

## Figure 4.1



## Figure 4.2



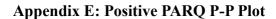
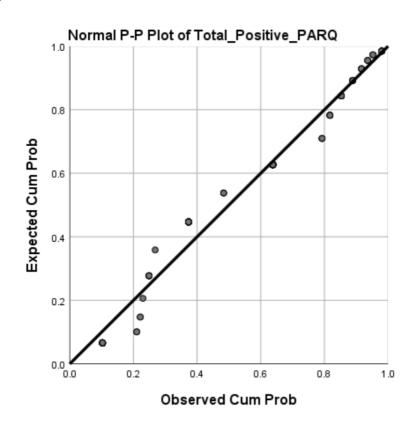
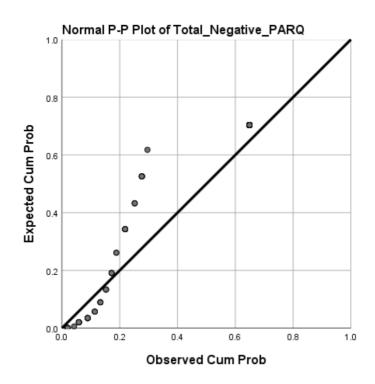


Figure 4.3



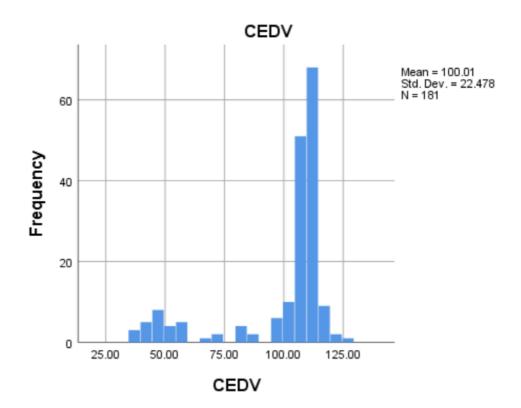
# Appendix F: Negative PARQ P-P Plot



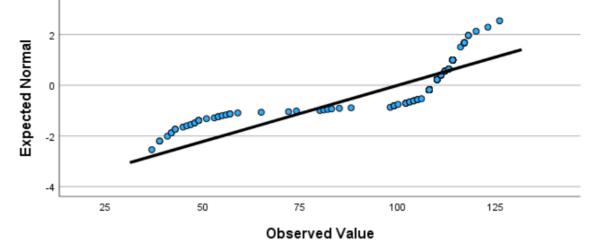


Appendix G: CEDV Histogram





Normal Q-Q Plot of Total\_CEDV





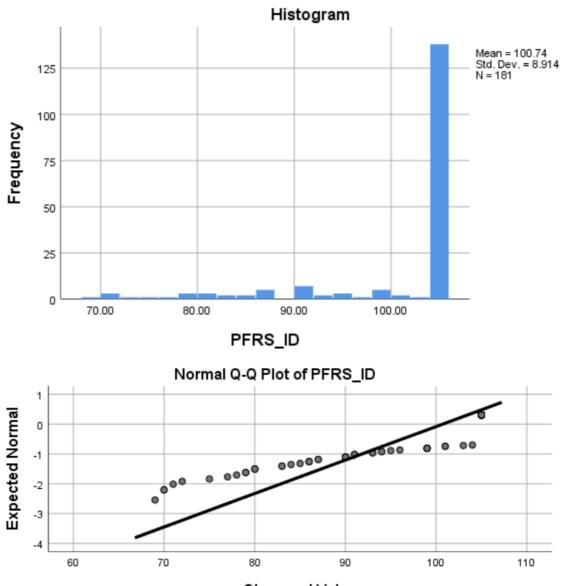
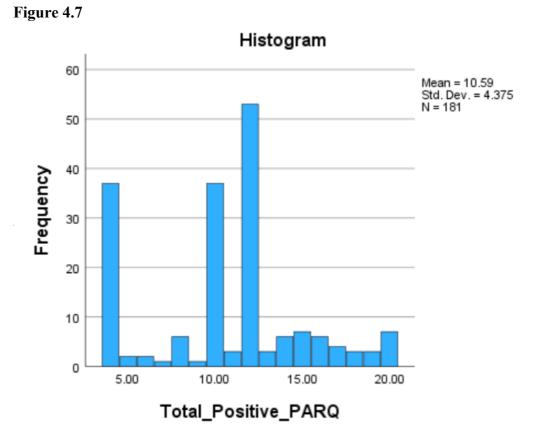
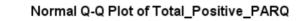


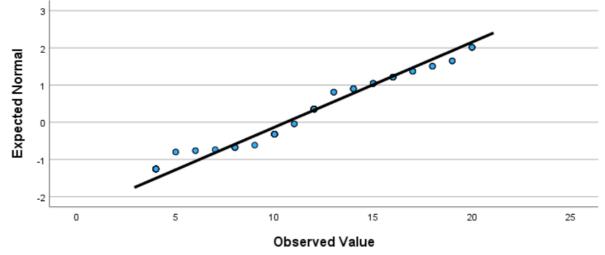
Figure 4.6

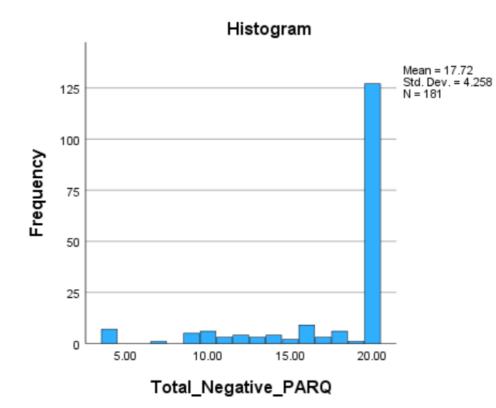
Observed Value

## Appendix I: Positive PARQ Histogram

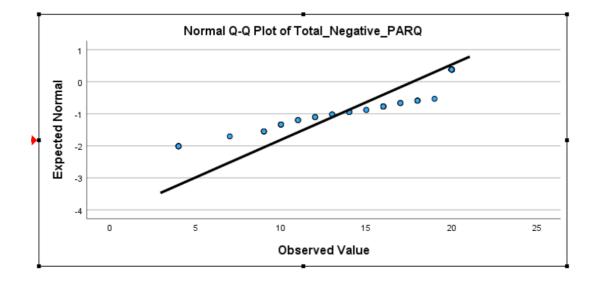












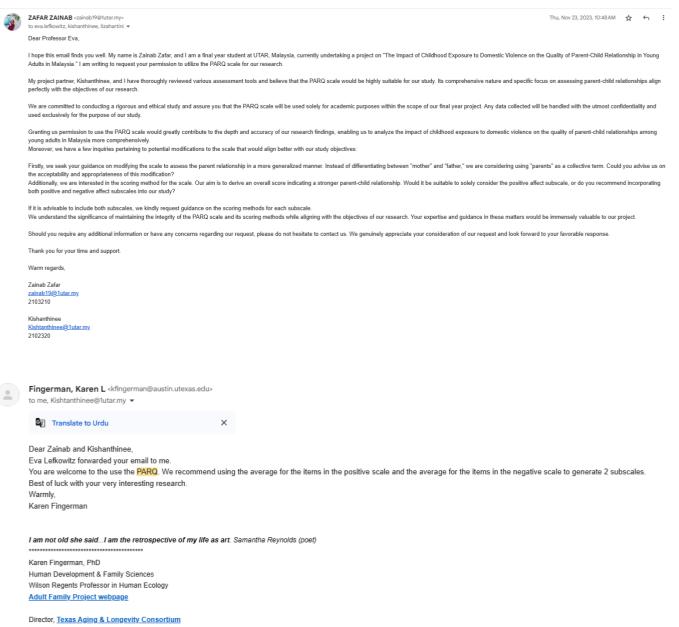
# Appendix K: Test for Normality

## Tests of Normality

	Kolmo	gorov-Smirr	nov <sup>a</sup>	Shapiro-Wilk			
	Statistic	df	Sig.	Statistic	df	Sig.	
Total_PFRS	.396	181	.000	.622	181	.000	
Total_CEDV	.341	181	.000	.667	181	.000	
Total_Positive_PARQ	.176	181	.000	.912	181	.000	
Total_Negative_PARQ	.405	181	.000	.602	181	.000	

a. Lilliefors Significance Correction

### Appendix L1: Seeking Permission to use Parent Adult Relationship Quality (PARQ)



#### Director of Research, <u>Center on Aging & Population Sciences</u> <u>Family Exchanges Study data:</u> <u>Daily Experiences Study data:</u> **Email etiquette:** I email at all hours- but don't expect you to do so

One attachment • Scanned by Gmail (i)



## Appendix L2: Seeking Permission to use Protective Factors for Resilience Scale

### (PFRS)

ZAFAR ZAINAB <zainab19@1utar.my>

Mon, Dec 25, 2023, 8:49 PM 🙀 🕤 🗄

Subject: Request for Permission to Use the Protective Factors for Resilience Scale (PFRS) in Research

Dear Professor Julie Ann Pooley,

I trust this message finds you in good health and spirits. My name is Zainab Zafar, a student enrolled in the Bachelors of Social Science (Hons) Psychology program at UTAR (Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman). Currently, I am engaged in a research project for my Final Year Project alongside my group mate, Kishanthinee.

Our research is centered on exploring the correlation between Childhood Exposure to Domestic Violence and Resilience concerning the Quality of Parent-Child Relationships among young adults in Malaysia.

We are reaching out to respectfully request your authorization to employ the Protective Factors for Resilience Scale (PFRS), a tool you developed, as part of our research methodology. We firmly believe that utilizing your scale will significantly enrich our investigation, offering valuable insights into the impact of resilience on understanding the dynamics of parent-child relationships among Malaysian young adults who have experienced childhood exposure to domestic violence.

Moreover, we are keen on understanding the scoring procedures for the PFRS. Your guidance on how to administer and score the scale would be immensely beneficial. Considering the specifics of our study, we are seeking your expert advice on the suitability of the PFRS for measuring resilience within our designated context.

If feasible, we kindly request access to the Protective Factors for Resilience Scale (PFRS) to incorporate it into our research methodology. I assure you that we will strictly adhere to all ethical guidelines and protocols concerning the usage of this scale.

Your insights and expertise would immensely contribute to the depth and quality of our research, and we sincerely appreciate your time and consideration in addressing our queries.

Thank you very much for your attention to this matter. We eagerly await your response at your earliest convenience.

Warm regards, Zainab Zafar Student ID: 2103210 Kishanthinee

Student ID: 2102320

to me

Julie Ann POOLEY <j.pooley@ecu.edu.au>

Translate to Urdu

Greetings yes indeed you can use the scale. The information contained in the article is what you need to administer, it is very straight forward. I have attached some articles to assist you. Good luck with what is a very interesting project.

×

Regards Julie Ann

#### Professor Julie Ann Pooley

PhD, MPSych, PGDip (Counselling), BAppSc (Psychology), DipManagment.

Associate Dean, Psychology, Counselling and Criminology

School of Arts and Humanities Edith Cowan University (CRICOS CODE 00279B) Joondalup Campus | Perth WA 6027 | Australia Tel: +61 8 6304 5591 (Mobile # 0413338207) Email: j.pooley@ecu.edu.au [https://www.ecu.edu.au/schools/arts-and-humanities/staff/related-content/lists/psychology-and-criminology/psychology/professor-julie-ann-pooley] [Pronouns: she/her/hers] Learn more about pronouns here

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### **Appendix M: Questionnaire**

### **Personal Data Protection Statement**

Welcome to our survey!

Please be informed that in accordance with Personal Data Protection Act 2010 ("PDPA") which came into force on 15 November 2013, Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman ("UTAR") is hereby bound to make notice and require consent in relation to collection, recording, storage, usage and retention of personal information.

Personal data refers to any information which may directly or indirectly identify a person which could include sensitive persona data and expression of opinion. Among others it includes:

- a. Name
- b. Identity card
- c. Place of Birth
- d. Address
- e. Education History
- f. Employment History
- g. Medical History
- h. Blood type
- i. Race
- j. Religion
- k. Photo

1. Personal Information and Associated Research Data

The purposes for which your personal data may be used are inclusive but not limited to: a. For assessment of any application to UTAR

- b. For procession any benefits and services
- c. For communication purposes
- d. For advertorial and news
- e. For general administration and record purposes
- f. For enhancing the value of education
- g. For educational and related purposes consequential to UTAR
- h. For replying any responds to complaints and enquiries
- i. For the purpose of our corporate governance
- j. For the purposes of conducting research and collaboration

Privacy and Confidentiality:

- 1. Personal data is stored for a duration necessary for the purposes outlined in this survey.
- 2. All collected data will be stored on secure server and will be restricted to authorized personnel.
- 3. Personal data will not be shared with any third party, except as required by law.
- 4. Research findings will be presented in a way that ensures the anonymity of participants.

### Consent:

By proceeding with the survey, you consent to:

- 1. The processing of personal data and information.
- 2. Your anonymous responses being used for research and analysis purposes.
- 3. The processing of your data in accordance to data protection laws and regulations.
- 4. The publication of anonymized results, ensuring that no personal information is disclosed.

UTAR is committed in ensuring the confidentiality, protection, security and accuracy of

your personal information made available to us and it has been our ongoing strict policy to ensure that your personal information is accurate, complete, not misleading and updated. UTAR would also ensure that your personal data shall not be used for political and commercial purposes.

We appreciate your participation in our research study examining the relationship between childhood exposure to domestic violence and the quality of parent-child relationships and resilience in young adults in Malaysia.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the survey, please feel free to contact:

1. Kishanthinee (kishanthinee@1utar.my)

2. Zainab Zafar (zainab19@1utar.my)

Thank you for your time and contribution to our research. Your perspective is crucial in shedding light on the experiences of young adults in Malaysia.

Participant's Signature:

[] I have been notified by you and that I hereby understood, consented, and agreed per

UTAR

above notice.

[] I disagree, my personal data will not be processed

Acknowledgement of Personal Data Protection Notice

## **PAART A: Demographic Information**

Instruction: Please fill in your personal details or choose an answer based on the questions given.

1. Age: \_\_\_\_\_

- 2. Gender:
- [] Male

[] Female

[] Prefer not to say

3. Are you Malaysian:

[]Yes

[ ] No

4. Race

[] Malay

[] Indian

[] Chinese

[] Others

5. Country of Origin: \_\_\_\_\_

6. Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

7. Please indicate the relationship that applies to you

[] Biological parent exclusively

[] Adoptive parents exclusively

[] Step parents exclusively

[] Others

### **Part 2: Questionnaires**

### Parent-Adult Relationship Questionnaire (PARQ)

Instruction: This questionnaire asks about your background and about your relationship with

your parents. We are interested in knowing your response on these questions about

### relationships with your parents.

We'd like to know how often, if ever, your parents may have done the following things recently.

Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Often	Always
1	2	3	4	5

Positive Subscale

- 1. How often has your parents acted warm or affectionate toward you?
- 2. How often has your parents acted thoughtful or considerate toward you?
- 3. How often has your parents' done favors or other little things for you?
- 4. How often has your parents been supportive of the decisions you've made?

### Negative Subscale

- 5. How often has your parent acted angry or hostile towards you?
- 6. How often has your parent acted insensitively or unsympathetically toward you?
- 7. How often has your parent made demands for favors or other little things from you?
- 8. How often has your parent questioned or doubted your decisions?

## Childhood Exposure to Domestic Violence (CEDV) scale

Instruction: These questions reflect **childhood exposure to domestic violence** against yourself and your mother or others in your household. Recall experiences related to your childhood.

Never	Sometimes	Often	Almost Always
0	1	2	3

Types of domestic violence exposure

- Q1. Adults in your family disagree.
- Q2. Mom's partner hurt her feelings.
- Q3. Mom's partner stopped her from doing something.
- Q4. Mom's partner stopped her from eating/sleeping.
- Q5. Mom and her partner argued about you.
- Q6. Mom's partner hurt pet in the home.
- Q7. Mom's partner broke/destroyed something.
- Q8. Mom's partner hurt her body.
- Q9. Mom's partner threatened to use weapon.
- Q10. Mom's partner hurt her with knife, gun, object.

Community exposure

- Q22. Heard a person do name calling and tease others.
- Q23. Someone called you a name/hurt your feelings.
- Q24. You call names/hurt someone else's feelings.
- Q25. You physically hurt a person on purpose.
- Q26. Seen someone get hurt by another person.
- Q27. Someone hurt you.

Q28. Seen someone hurt or killed in a movie.

Q29. Seen someone hurt or killed in a video game.

### Involvement

- Q11. Yelled at mom and partner during fight (different room).
- Q12. Yelled at mom and partner during fight (same room).
- Q13. Called for help when partner hurts your mom.
- Q14. Physically tried to stop mom and partner's fight.
- Q15. Partner did something to you to hurt/scare mom.
- Q16. Tried to get away from the fighting,
- Q17. Mom's partner asked you to tell on your mom.

### Risk factors

- Q18. Worry about partner's drinking or drugs.
- Q19. Worry about your mom's drinking or drug use.
- Q20. Your mom seems sad, worried, or upset.
- Q21. You have had big changes in your life.

### Victimization

- Q30. An adult in your family hurt your feelings.
- Q31. An adult in your family hurt your body.
- Q32. Someone not in your family touched privates.
- Q33. Someone in your family touched private parts.

### The Protective Factors for Resilience Scale (PFRS)

This survey explores the protective factors of resilience, focusing on your current mental well-being. Your insights are crucial to understanding resilience components. Please consider your present emotional state as you respond to contribute meaningfully to our research.

Strongly	Disagree	Somewhat	Neutral	Somewhat	Agree	Strongly
Disagree		Disagree		Agree		Agree
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

- 1. I can deal with whatever challenges come my way.
- 2. I achieve what I set out to do.
- 3. I feel that I belong with my friends.
- 4. My family are a source of strength for me.
- 5. I believe in myself.
- 6. I follow through on plans to achieve my goals.
- 7. My friends treat me fairly.
- 8. I feel accepted by my family.
- 9. I can look after myself.
- 10. My friends look after me.
- 11. I know that my family would help me if I needed help.
- 12. I feel that I can influence what happens to me.
- 13. I can rely on myself to be ready for what I need to do each day.
- 14. My friends are a great source of support.
- 15. I feel comfortable around my family.
- 16. When I think about my future, I feel positive.
- 17. I really try hard in the things that I do.

- 18. I can rely on my friends for help if I needed it.
- 19. I feel safe within my family.
- 20. I know what I want to do with my life.

### **Appendix N: Ethical Approval Form**



UNIVERSITI TUNKU ABDUL RAHMAN DU012(A)

Wholly owned by UTAR Education Foundation

Co. No. 578227-M

Re: U/SERC/78-209/2024

13 January 2024

Dr Pung Pit Wan Head, Department of Psychology and Counselling Faculty of Arts and Social Science Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman Jalan Universiti, Bandar Baru Barat 31900 Kampar, Perak.

Dear Dr Pung,

#### Ethical Approval For Research Project/Protocol

We refer to the application for ethical approval for your students' research project from Bachelor of Social Science (Honours) Psychology programme enrolled in course UAPZ3031. We are pleased to inform you that the application has been approved under <u>Expedited Review</u>.

The details of the research projects are as follows:

No	Research Title	Student's Name	Supervisor's Name	Approval Validity	
1.	The Mediating Role of Interpersonal Distress Between Loneliness and Mobile Phone Addiction Among University Students in Malaysia	<ol> <li>Goh Yen Jing</li> <li>Nhirmaya Radha a/p R Saravanan</li> <li>Rashvinie a/p Nanthagopal</li> </ol>	Ms Liza Hartini	13 January 2024 -	
2.	Examining the Relationship Between Childhood Exposure to Domestic Violence and Resilience on the Quality of Parent-Child Relationship in Young Adults in Malavsia	1. Kishanthinee Shanmuganathan 2. Zainab Zafar	Binti Rusdi	13 January 2024 – 12 January 2025	

The conduct of this research is subject to the following:

- (1) The participants' informed consent be obtained prior to the commencement of the research;
- (2) Confidentiality of participants' personal data must be maintained; and
- (3) Compliance with procedures set out in related policies of UTAR such as the UTAR Research Ethics and Code of Conduct, Code of Practice for Research Involving Humans and other related policies/guidelines.
- (4) Written consent be obtained from the institution(s)/company(ies) in which the physical or/and online survey will be carried out, prior to the commencement of the research.

Kampar Campus : Jalan Universiti, Bandar Barat, 31900 Kampar, Perak Darul Ridzuan, Malaysia Tel: (605) 468 8888 Fax: (605) 466 1313 Sungai Long Campus : Jalan Sungai Long, Bandar Sungai Long, Cheras, 43000 Kajang, Selangor Darul Ehsan, Malaysia Tel: (603) 9086 0288 Fax: (603) 9019 8868 Website: www.utar.edu.my



Should the students collect personal data of participants in their studies, please have the participants sign the attached Personal Data Protection Statement for records.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

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**Professor Ts Dr Faidz bin Abd Rahman** Chairman UTAR Scientific and Ethical Review Committee

c.c Dean, Faculty of Arts and Social Science Director, Institute of Postgraduate Studies and Research



## **Appendix O: Poster for Data Collection**