

Sex Differences in Functional Difficulty and Disability-Free Life Expectancy among Older Persons in Indonesia and the Philippines

Objectives

1. Examine the prevalence of functional difficulty among older persons in Indonesia and the Philippines.
2. Investigate the sex differences in disability-free life expectancy among older people in these two countries.

Data and Methodology

Data on functional difficulty are drawn from the 2010 Indonesian and Philippine Census of Population and Housing (CPH), while data on life expectancy are derived from the WHO 2010 life tables. Cross-tabulation is used to compare sex differences in the prevalence of functional difficulty in these two countries while the Sullivan method is used to calculate disability-free life expectancy. Functional difficulty indicators for both countries include difficulty in seeing, hearing, walking or climbing stairs, and self-care. An older person who reported difficulty in at least one of these four indicators is considered to have a functional difficulty.

Preliminary Results

Results show that difficulty in seeing, even when wearing eye glasses is the most prevalent among older people in these two countries. The prevalence of each health indicator and those with at least one functional difficulty is higher among older people in Indonesia than their

counterparts in the Philippines (Figure 1). For example, the proportion with at least one functional difficulty is 20% among older women in the Philippines compared to 28% among older women in Indonesia. Sex difference in the prevalence of functional difficulty is much wider in Indonesia than in the Philippines.

Table 1 shows that older men and women in the Philippines have higher life expectancy at age 60 than their counterparts in Indonesia. As with the rest of the world, older women in both countries have higher life expectancy than older men. Similarly, disability-free life expectancy is higher among older people in the Philippines than in Indonesia. For example, among Filipino men out of the total 15.6 remaining years, 12.4 years of it will be spent disability free, while the remaining 3.2 years are spent with disability. Among older Indonesian men, 11.5 years out their total 15.1 years will be disability free. Sex differences in disability-free life expectancy are much steeper in Indonesia than in the Philippines.

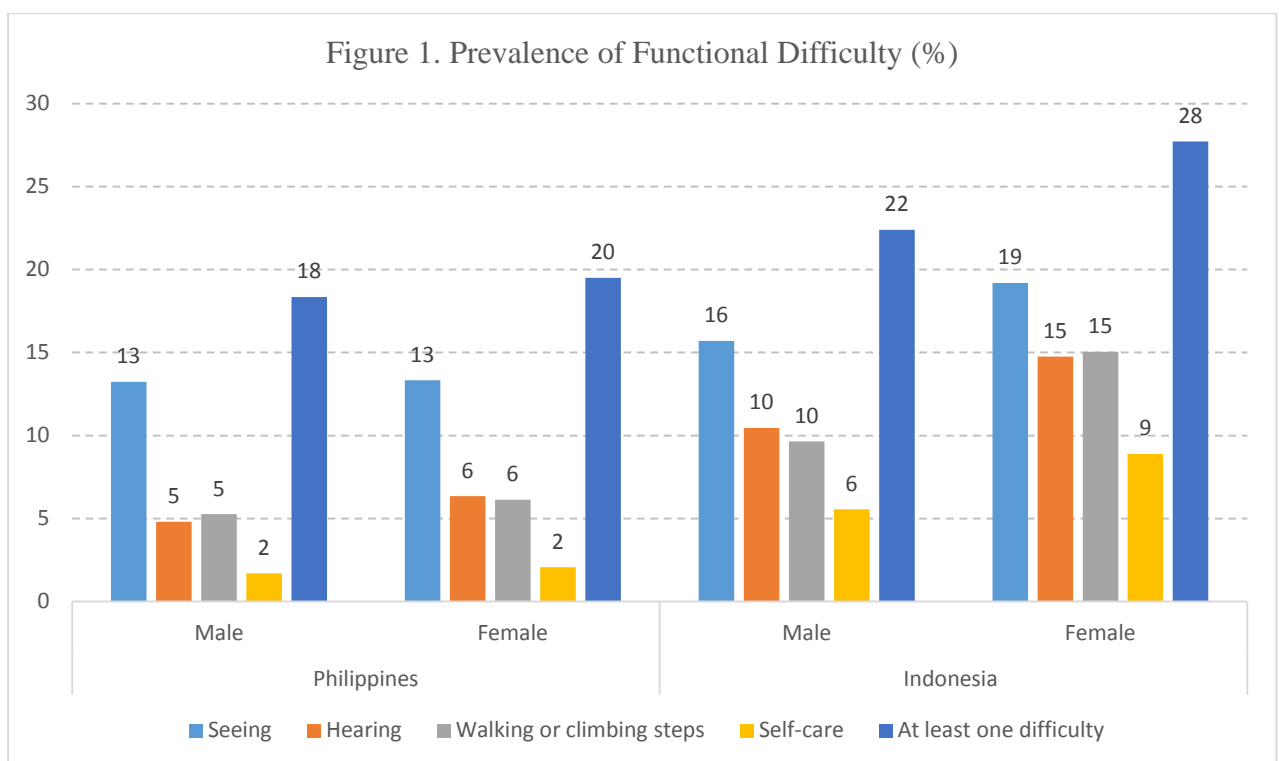


Table 1. Total life expectancy (LE), Disability-free life expectancy (DFLE) and % of remaining life lived in healthy state: Philippines and Indonesia, 2010

	Philippines				Indonesia			
	Life expectancy (in years)	Disability-free	With disability	% of remaining life lived in healthy state	Life expectancy (in years)	Disability-free	With disability	% of remaining life lived in healthy state
Male	Total				Total			
60	15.6	12.4	3.2	79.7	15.1	11.5	3.6	76.2
65	12.9	9.8	3.0	76.5	12.0	8.6	3.4	71.8
70	10.2	7.3	2.8	72.3	9.3	6.2	3.2	66.0
75	7.5	5.1	2.4	67.7	7.1	4.3	2.8	60.3
80	5.7	3.5	2.2	60.9	5.3	2.8	2.5	53.0
Female								
60	18.5	14.5	4.0	78.5	17.7	12.5	5.2	70.9
65	14.9	11.2	3.7	75.4	14.1	9.4	4.8	66.1
70	11.6	8.2	3.3	71.2	10.9	6.6	4.3	60.2
75	8.6	5.7	2.9	66.3	8.2	4.5	3.7	54.5
80	6.1	3.6	2.5	59.5	6.1	2.9	3.2	47.2