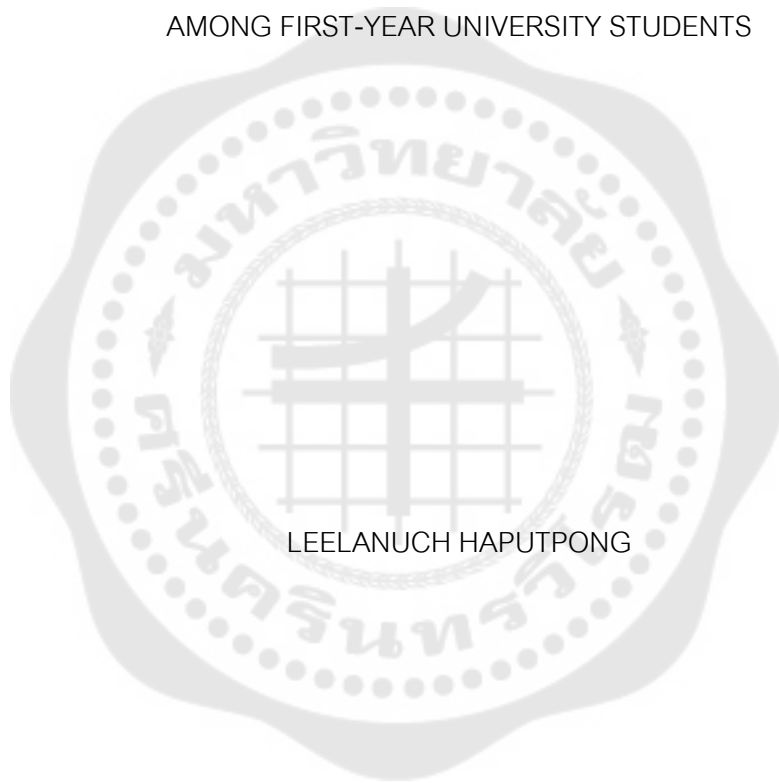




THE EFFECTS OF ACCEPTANCE AND COMMITMENT THERAPY ON MEANING IN LIFE  
AMONG FIRST-YEAR UNIVERSITY STUDENTS



LEELANUCH HAPUTPONG

Graduate School Srinakharinwirot University

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ศิลปศาสตรมหาบัณฑิต สาขาวิชาจิตวิทยาประยุกต์  
บัณฑิตวิทยาลัย มหาวิทยาลัยศรีนครินทรวิโรฒ  
ปีการศึกษา 2565  
ลิขสิทธิ์ของมหาวิทยาลัยศรีนครินทรวิโรฒ

THE EFFECTS OF ACCEPTANCE AND COMMITMENT THERAPY ON MEANING IN LIFE  
AMONG FIRST-YEAR UNIVERSITY STUDENTS



LEELANUCH HAPUTPONG

A Thesis Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements  
for the Degree of MASTER OF ARTS  
(Applied Psychology)

Graduate School, Srinakharinwirot University

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THE THESIS TITLED  
THE EFFECTS OF ACCEPTANCE AND COMMITMENT THERAPY ON MEANING IN LIFE  
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BY  
LEELANUCH HAPUTPONG

HAS BEEN APPROVED BY THE GRADUATE SCHOOL IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT  
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-----  
(Assoc. Prof. Dr. Chatchai Ekpanyaskul, MD.)

Dean of Graduate School  
-----

ORAL DEFENSE COMMITTEE

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..... Committee  
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|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| Title          | THE EFFECTS OF ACCEPTANCE AND COMMITMENT THERAPY ON<br>MEANING IN LIFE AMONG FIRST-YEAR UNIVERSITY STUDENTS |
| Author         | LEELANUCH HAPUTPONG   |
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| Thesis Advisor | Assistant Professor Dr. Jitra Dudsdeemaytha   |

The objective of this research is to explore the effects of Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT) on meaning in life (MIL) among first-year university students. The research design was a pre-test post-test quasi-experiment with a control group. The research sample included 20 first-year university students from Srinakharinwirot University who had MIL scores below the 60<sup>th</sup> percentile. The 20 participants were partially randomly assigned into the ACT experimental group and the waitlist control group, with 10 participants in each group. The research instruments were the Tripartite Meaning in Life Scale (TMLS) and the online group ACT program. The data were analyzed using the paired samples t-test and the independent samples t-test. The results were as follows: (1) the first-year university students who participated in ACT had higher scores on MIL than before participating in ACT at a statistically significant level of  $p < .001$ , with an effect size of 2.43, and (2) the first-year university students who participated in ACT had higher scores on MIL than those in the control group who did not participate in ACT at a statistically significant level of  $p < .0025$ , with an effect size of 1.50.

Keyword : Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT), Meaning in life (MIL), Tripartite Meaning in Life Scale (TMLS), University students, Mindfulness-based therapy

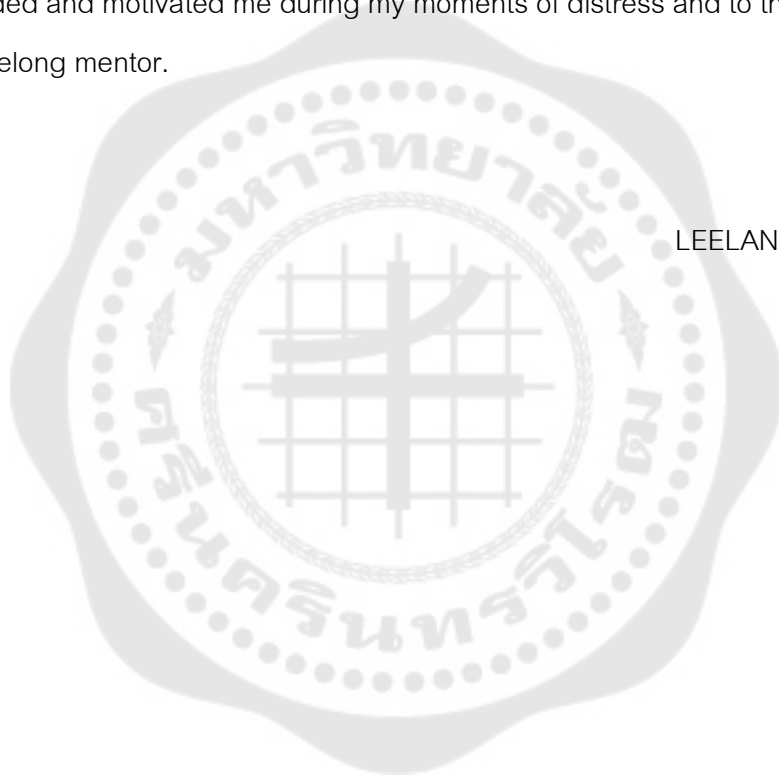
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# Chapter 1

## Introduction

### 1. Background and significance of research problem

“The human being seems to require meaning” (Yalom, 1980). In every person, there is an innate motive to strive for meaning in life (MIL) (Frankl, 2006). Without meaning, one descends into a state of existential vacuum, a sort of emptiness or inner void underlying many troubling phenomena such as depression, aggression, and addiction. These seminal insights from Yalom (1980) and Frankl (2006) are heavily backed by subsequent studies on MIL. Research has linked a lack of MIL to depression (Hedayati & Khazaei, 2014), anxiety (Steger, Mann, et al., 2009), stress (Pongsayaporn & Laurujisawat, 2019), suicidal ideation (Tan et al., 2018) and social media addiction (Cevik et al., 2020) among various other negative outcomes.

Recently, MIL has experienced burgeoning research on its host of positive outcomes, verifying literature that claims the construct to be crucial for optimal psychological functioning (Frankl, 2006). This is not surprising, as meaning is a central element of well-being within positive psychology (Seligman, 2011), a field that aims to promote flourishing and prevent pathologies that may arise during challenging life experiences (Seligman & Csikszentmihalyi, 2000).

Aside from findings linking MIL to reduced pathology (e.g., depression (Datu et al., 2019), anxiety (Miller & Rottinghaus, 2014), psychological distress (Thoits, 2012), loneliness (Macià et al., 2021), internet addiction (Zhang et al., 2015)), MIL is linked to a plethora of aspects of a flourishing life. This includes links to increased happiness, life satisfaction, self-esteem, self-efficacy (Damasio & Koller, 2015; Thoits, 2012), physical health (Thoits, 2012), global psychological well-being, self-acceptance, positive relations, autonomy, purpose in life, personal growth (García-Alandete et al., 2018), and mastery (García-Alandete et al., 2018; Thoits, 2012). Studies have also found MIL to predict key life-long developmental processes such as self-esteem (Asagba et al., 2016; Zhang et al., 2019) and identity commitment (Negru-Subtirica et al., 2016). Perhaps one

of the most significant strengths of meaning is its capacity as “the ultimate coping mechanism” (Hoffman, 2009, p. 259), a way to stabilize and center the self in an unstable, disoriented world. This is strongly reminiscent of Frankl’s (2006) perspective. Frankl believed that with meaning comes the capability to cope with suffering. For like the famous quote from Nietzsche (Frankl, 2006), “He who has a why to live for can bear almost any how,” research has found that meaning affords resilience (Kim et al., 2005) and is linked to hope (Damasio & Koller, 2015; Hedayati & Khazaei, 2014) and optimism (Damasio & Koller, 2015).

Theoretically, the Narrative Identity Theory (McAdams & Cox, 2010), the Meaning Maintenance Model (MMM) (Heine et al., 2006), the Self-Regulation Model (Carver & Scheier, 1998), and the Terror Management Theory (TMT) (Greenberg et al., 1986), supporting different dimensions of MIL, all attest to the fact that MIL is central to human life at any point in time. Simply put, having MIL sets individuals on a value-driven path that paves the way for healthy transitions across the life span (Damon et al., 2003) and increased well-being at all stages of life (Steger, Oishi, et al., 2009).

The first year of university marks a key milestone that kickstarts emerging adulthood for many. Emerging adulthood marks the years from the late teens through the twenties and is a distinct period of life particular to developed societies (Arnett, 2000, 2007). It is a time of great transitional changes, a time when one’s future has not been decided, when the scope of exploration of life’s possibilities is greater than any other period of life. For a moment in time, emerging adults enter this in-between status in which they are no longer adolescents but also not entirely adults, freeing them from both strict parental grip and enduring adult roles (Arnett, 2000, 2007, 2015). To top it all off, emerging adulthood is also recognized for heightened instability and self-focus. From building a fully formed identity to systematically exploring love and school/work, and developing and changing goals, emerging adults are subject to complex challenges (Arnett, 2015).

This is supported by Erikson’s (1963) seminal theory of human development across the lifespan which although, originally attributed such challenges to both

adolescence and young adulthood, accommodates a period of prolonged adolescence (Erikson, 1968) akin to emerging adulthood. According to the Reflective Judgment model (Kitchener & King, 1981), these are the golden years during which many aspects of reflective thinking typically develop and become cognitively complex over time (King & Kitchener, 2014). Given the intensity and the cognitive readiness of this period, it is a critical point for emerging adults to become aware and intentional about MIL, for this resource can help guide them through life's difficulties.

As they move from high school onto university, many emerging adults may conform to social pressures (e.g., abide by society's expectations, follow friends, listen to parents) (Brooks, 2003; Wong et al., 2020), hindering them from being deliberate about their future. This is a situation they get to figure out during their undergraduate years. As emerging adults work on their goals and identity, they go through many periods of doubts and re-decisions, many changing their majors during the four years or more at university (Arnett, 2000, 2015). One study found that first-year university students yielded poorer scores than their senior counterparts in areas of social adjustment (i.e., acquiring new friends), heightened emotional instability (i.e., anxiety), and academic difficulty (Sharma, 2012). Another study found similar results, with 42% of sampled first-year university students reporting an overall adjustment problem (Ababu et al., 2018). Difficult adjustment was found in institutional, academic, personal-emotional, and social areas. These results are corroborated by findings of a study on first-year university students from Srinakharinwirot University in Thailand (Chantarasena et al., 2013) which reported that students experienced moderate stress levels in the areas of learning management, study skills, learning environment, and relationship with classmates.

Evidently, university transition is not an easy task. But add on today's pandemic crisis, this experience is much more complicated. With multiple waves of Covid-19, erratic home quarantine, and overdependence on online learning, advancement into university has never been more foreign. Since its onset, countless studies from across the world have documented the impact of Covid-19 on university students. From the



U.S. to China, Malaysia, and the Philippines, studies have reported increased stress and anxiety among students (Aguilar & Torres, 2021; Al-Kumaim et al., 2021; Son et al., 2020; Wang & Zhao, 2020) with stressors ranging from health concerns to concentration difficulty, sleep disruption, decreased social interaction, academic performance concerns (Son et al., 2020), technological difficulty (Aguilar & Torres, 2021), work overload, and unfamiliarity with online learning (Al-Kumaim et al., 2021). Another U.S. study reported 48% of undergraduate and graduate students having moderate to severe depression during the height of the pandemic, with first-year undergraduate students yielding the highest depression score (Wang et al., 2020). The impact is no different in Thailand with an overwhelming majority of students (70-80%) finding themselves easily distracted and demotivated by online learning (Imsa-ard, 2020). The study noted that this demotivation was likely due to the ingenuine interaction and isolation inherent in distance learning. Another Thai study corroborates these findings, reporting overall high anxiety with online learning, and additionally with the Covid-19 situation (Chimwong, 2021). Among these concerns was the uncertainty of the students' own future.

Data concerning the MIL level of first-year students in Thailand are limited, not to mention data specific to Srinakharinwirot University in Bangkok, Thailand, a university located in urban Bangkok that aligns with Arnett's (2000, 2007, 2015) conceptualization of emerging adulthood in modern societies. A study of students from Chulalongkorn University, a comparable university located in urban Bangkok, found that there are more students with high MIL than there are students with low MIL (Pongsayaporn & Laurujisawat, 2019). Another study of students from Rajabhat University located in 5 major provinces across Thailand found that, overall, students had a high average MIL score (Sangaroon, 2019). Nevertheless, the data, broken down, showed that at least 44% of students in the sample had low MIL, with at least 32% of students reporting very low MIL and at least 11% reporting low MIL. Although this study is not of a university population located in urban Bangkok, its finding is still relevant as pursuing higher education is a marker of industrialized cultures albeit big or small (Arnett, 2000, 2007). While evidence suggests that Thai university students generally have high MIL, it is still

beneficial to strengthen the MIL of these students and even more vital to ensure students with low MIL are not neglected and are guided to achieve the high MIL typical of their peers.

With the world upended, MIL has now become more relevant than ever to students transitioning into university. Students with low MIL can benefit from having enhanced MIL, a crucial resource in the prevention of mental health disorders. Thus, it is necessary to equip first-year students with MIL, the ultimate coping, resilience, hope, and optimism mechanism so that they may better navigate the challenges inherent and new in the transition and emerge intact through the pandemic and into the world of adulthood.

A recent meta-analysis of interventions targeting MIL identified 33 studies across 2 decades (2000-2020) (Manco & Hamby, 2021). The majority of the 35 samples, regardless of age, either involved populations with cancer or other diseases. Only one study had a university student sample (i.e., Robatmili et al., 2015). The study's intervention was group logotherapy, a psychotherapy developed by Viktor Frankl (2006) to specifically address MIL. Although the group logotherapy yielded positive results (i.e., students in the MIL group had significantly higher MIL), it comes with practical and theoretical limitations.

Regarding practical limitations, logotherapy along with its existential therapy counterparts have substantial barriers to entry (Corey, 2013, 2016). Key limitations of this approach include its abstract philosophical nature, lack of systematic principles, practices, and techniques, and the high level of maturity, life experience, and intensive training required of therapists. These concerns pose significant barriers for practitioners, naturally making the intervention less available to clients.

Regarding theoretical limitations, logotherapy heavily centers on values clarification and goal setting (Robatmili et al., 2015). The Purpose in Life (PIL) (Crumbaugh & Maholick, 1964) instrument used in the study was designed to operationalize the Logotherapy concepts and thus, measured MIL as having a single purpose component. For a long period and for a large part of MIL research, meaning

and purpose have been treated as identical constructs at times and distinct constructs at others (George & Park, 2013). However, after decades of research, current scholarly consensus holds that the contemporary MIL model is multidimensional, consisting of coherence, purpose, and significance (e.g., George & Park, 2016a; King et al., 2006; Martela & Steger, 2016). Fortunately, for both the practical and theoretical limitations, there is an alternative intervention that is not only more accessible and effective but also more likely to address MIL as a tripartite construct.

The same meta-analysis identified mindfulness therapy as one of the two most effective interventions for MIL to date (Manco & Hamby, 2021). This therapy is relatively brief and typically does not require a licensed professional. A well-known mindfulness-based intervention is Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT). ACT belongs to the third wave of behavioral therapy, expanding on famous predecessors like Behavioral Therapy and Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (Hayes, 2004). It is transdiagnostic, with research touting its success across a broad range of intervention targets (e.g., depression, anxiety, substance use, chronic pain, combinations of conditions, quality of life) (Gloster et al., 2020).

The foundation of ACT is the six core processes of Acceptance, Cognitive defusion, Contacting the present, Self-as-context, Values, and Committed action (Luoma et al., 2017). These processes help establish the central goal of ACT which is increased psychological flexibility. Psychological flexibility is the ability to be more fully present in the now and to direct life toward valued goals (Hayes & Strosahl, 2004). A rich and meaningful life is directly mentioned as part of ACT's desired outcome (Luoma et al., 2017). Surprisingly, ACT was not identified among the interventions – mindfulness and others – included in Manco and Hamby's (2021) meta-analysis. Similarly, another meta-analysis of studies on mindfulness-based interventions targeting MIL published until July 2019 could not identify ACT in its literature search (Chu & Mak, 2020). Both studies reveal that there is limited research on ACT with MIL as a target variable, whether that is MIL in its traditional one-dimension definition or its contemporary tripartite conceptualization. This is despite ACT's meaningful life therapy outcome, its heavy

reliance on mindfulness mechanisms, and research supporting successful application of mindfulness on MIL, particularly with the purpose subconstruct (Chu & Mak, 2020; Manco & Hamby, 2021). Nevertheless, existing empirical evidence concerning ACT on MIL suggests that ACT is effective in enhancing general meaning (Khorani et al., 2020; Seyrek & Eranli, 2021), purpose, sense of coherence (Jenaabadi & Hosseini, 2020; Younesi et al., 2020), reduced suicidal ideation (Ducasse et al., 2018), and self-esteem (Moradi et al., 2020; Saadati et al., 2017), variables that either directly correspond to a MIL subconstruct or are closely related subconstructs. Although these studies of ACT on MIL are mainly of adult, clinical, and/or disease populations, research shows that ACT has been used effectively among university students with at least one meta-analysis substantiating ACT's efficacy in improving the well-being of this emerging adult population (Howell & Passmore, 2019).

Regarding non-professional administration, studies show that ACT has been run successfully by doctoral psychology students (Grégoire et al., 2018) as well as master's level psychology students (Kohtala et al., 2013). These studies support ACT's potential capacity as an effective MIL intervention which can be applied by therapists-in-training.

Research has shown ACT to be effective via online administration (e.g., Räsänen et al., 2016; Sairanen et al., 2019; Scott et al., 2018). Research also supports the efficacy of an 8-session group ACT targeting MIL and closely related outcomes (e.g., Khorani et al., 2020; Younesi et al., 2020). Moreover, ACT in a group setting amplifies the therapeutic change mechanisms of group therapy (Westrup & Wright, 2017). This includes enhanced therapeutic relationship, individual learning, social support, and compassion through active participation of group members.

With these limitations and potential for theoretical and practical advancement in mind, this research study employed ACT as the intervention to address MIL in first-year university students. The ACT intervention used in this study was administered in an online group format, employing an 8-session plan.

## 2. Research question

Does ACT increase MIL in first-year university students?

## 3. Research objective

To study the effects of ACT on MIL among first-year university students.

## 4. Significance of the study

1. Theoretical significance: This study was one of the first intervention studies to explore the effects of ACT on MIL as a tripartite construct. So far, mindfulness research on MIL has largely focused on the purpose dimension. This study has enhanced the limited literature on the effects of ACT on MIL, providing directions for future research.

2. Practical significance: By finding that ACT was effective in increasing MIL, the study has helped increase therapy accessibility for first-year university students with MIL issues; ACT can now be considered an alternative therapy option not only for therapists and counselors to implement but also counselors-in-training. As part of a mental health promotion and prevention program, universities may assign their counseling staff/professor or counselor-in-training students or hire an external counselor to run the ACT intervention for first-year university students before the end of the academic year.

## 5. Scope of the study

### Population

The study's population was first-year university students with low MIL from all faculties of Srinakharinwirot University located in Bangkok, Thailand. The population was from the academic year of 2022; the total number of first-year undergraduate students was 6,580 students (Srinakharinwirot University, 2023).

### Sample

Through voluntary response sampling and application of the inclusion /exclusion criteria, the study drew 20 participants from first-year students at Srinakharinwirot University. 10 students were partially randomly allocated to the

experimental group and the other 10 students to the control group. The maximum number of participants in any one group during the intervention was 10 participants.

Inclusion/Exclusion Criteria: Participants were selected using the following inclusion criteria. (1) Students must be first-year students currently attending university, (2) Participation is voluntary, (3) Students must have low MIL (score below the 60<sup>th</sup> percentile) measured by the Tripartite Meaning in Life Scale (TMLS) (Haputpong & Dudsdeemaytha, 2023), and (4) Students must be able to attend all group counseling sessions for the duration of the study.

#### **Variables**

Independent variable: Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT)

Dependent variable: Meaning in life (MIL)

#### **6. Operational definitions**

Meaning in life (MIL) refers to students' reflective interpretation of the extent to which they (1) understand and accept themselves and their life experiences, feel a sense of resilience born from having a well-defined identity and reconstructed meanings of experiences, experience continuity in life, (2) have valued goals, are motivated to pursue their valued goals, continually assess and realign their valued goals, (3) believe their life matters, and feel that they are able to live up to society's standards achieved through faith, worldly contributions, relationships, or everyday enjoyment. These are captured by the three dimensions of MIL below:

##### **Coherence**

Students understand and accept their variable and unpredictable life experiences, leading to a sense of resilience that is afforded by having the reflective thinking capacity to integrate experiences into their well-defined, albeit ever-evolving identity and to build or reconstruct new meanings of experiences such that there is continuity in their life that transcends meaningless chaos.

##### **Purpose**

Students have valued goals that lend a clear life direction, are motivated to engage and actually engage in the pursuit of those valued goals, and have the introspective thinking capacity to continually assess whether their values have changed and to realign their valued goals accordingly.

### **Significance**

Students feel the sense that their life matters and is worth living as a result of being able to live up to the values or standards of their accepted culture afforded by having religious or spiritual beliefs, being valued contributors to the world or society, feeling important within interpersonal relationships, or simply enjoying everyday living.

### **7. Definition of key terms**

Students refer to first-year university students from all faculties of Srinakharinwirot University, Bangkok, Thailand with a low MIL score (score below the 60<sup>th</sup> percentile) measured by the TMLS.

Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT) refers to a mindfulness-based group intervention that aims to increase MIL of first-year university students from Srinakharinwirot University, Bangkok, Thailand. The intervention has an online delivery format and is based on Westrup & Wright's (2017) training manual and Younesi et al.'s (2020) study which outline an 8-session group ACT program. Each session runs for 90 minutes and is administered once a week for the first 2 weeks, followed by a 2-week break, then twice a week for 3 weeks, overall spanning 6 weeks. The total duration is 12 hours. The program incorporates 6 core processes of psychological flexibility. Below is the session outline:

1. The first session begins with Introduction (e.g., program objective, MIL psychoeducation, rule-setting) and Creative hopelessness. The goals of Introduction are to build rapport between the counselor and the students and between the students themselves, inform students of the key objectives, expectations, and benefits of ACT. The goals of Creative hopelessness are for students to explore the ways they have been



managing their frustrations with first-year challenges, to understand how current control efforts do not work (control is hopeless) and to know that they can create new actions.

2. The second session introduces the Control agenda and works on the process of Acceptance. The Control agenda is a normative human process flowing from Creative hopelessness. The goal of the Control agenda is for students to see the cost of controlling painful thoughts and emotions, whilst the goal for Acceptance is for acceptance of all experiences to be a functional alternative. This session is expected to target the coherence subconstruct of MIL.

3. The third session works on the process of Cognitive defusion. The goal is to encourage students to distance themselves from their painful thoughts and emotions without attempting to control, change, or avoid them. This session is expected to target the coherence subconstruct of MIL.

4. The fourth session works on the process of Contacting the present. The goal is to help students focus their attention on their internal and external experience in the present moment without any judgment, so that students can see the full picture and opportunities that exist in having more information. This session is expected to target the coherence subconstruct of MIL.

5. The fifth session works on the process of Self-as-context. The goal is for students to notice themselves as an observer that is separate from their experiences, an observer existing through time and space, experiencing internal and external events that come and go, so that students can see their difficulties in a new way. This session is expected to target the coherence subconstruct of MIL.

6. The sixth session works on the process of Values. The goal is to encourage students to identify core values that are meaningful to them. This session is expected to target the purpose and significance subconstructs of MIL.

7. The seventh session works on the process of Values and Committed action. The goals of Values are to further encourage students to identify core values that are meaningful to them and assist them to verify that their identified values are truly important to them and are different from goals. The goal of Committed action is to



encourage students to start thinking about setting goals and actions that align with their core values. This session is expected to target the purpose and significance subconstructs of MIL.

8. The eighth session works on the process of Committed action and Termination. The goal of Committed action is to encourage students to set goals and actions that align with their core values. The goals of Termination are for students to reflect on their experience and express how they feel about the group and each other. This session is expected to target the purpose and significance subconstructs of MIL.

In these sessions, exercises are used only as a guidance tool. Therapeutic changes are expected to occur mainly through group discussions and the counselor's use of techniques such as emphatic listening, open-ended questioning, reflection of feeling, interpretation, and encouragement. The nature of the group format will enhance the therapeutic effects of these techniques as the group dynamic and shared experiences of student members come into play.

## Chapter 2

### Review of Related Literature and Research Studies

The review of related literature and research studies is divided into the following sections:

1. Meaning in Life (MIL)
  - 1.1. Background of MIL
  - 1.2. Definitions of MIL
  - 1.3. Dimensions of MIL
  - 1.4. Measurements of MIL
  - 1.5. Concepts and theories of MIL
  - 1.6. Research studies on MIL
2. Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT)
  - 2.1. Definition of ACT
  - 2.2. Theories of ACT
  - 2.3. Research studies on ACT
3. First-year university students
  - 3.1. Theories related to first-year university students
  - 3.2. Research studies on first-year university students
4. Research framework
5. Research hypotheses

#### 1. Meaning in Life (MIL)

##### 1.1. Background of MIL

MIL evolved out of the field of philosophy during the 19<sup>th</sup> century (Corey, 2013). In those early days, philosophers pondered on the universal questions of life such as what the ultimate purpose of being alive is or why one exists, all in the attempt to answer our existence's greatest enigma: What is the meaning of life? (Debats et al., 1995). Some of the major figures at the time included Soren Kierkegaard and Friedrich Nietzsche (Corey, 2013). By mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, triggered by the aftermath of World War I,

meaning began to take shape in psychology. The war had left masses of people devastated, suddenly embroiled in unprecedented feelings of isolation, alienation, and meaninglessness, key existential issues underpinning the birth of Existential Psychology. At the forefront of people's minds was a question much more tangible than before: What is meaning in life – in this life that I am living, specifically? (Martela & Steger, 2016). Gone are the endless, abstract musings on life, replaced by more urgent considerations of the subjective experiences of individuals and how those experiences instill meaning in their lives. Some of the key names in existential psychology are Viktor Frankl, Rollo May, and Irvin Yalom (Corey, 2013). Fast forward to modern times, MIL research has appeared in various fields of psychology, such that the meaning field is often referred to as the contemporary psychology of MIL. It is an expansive field, home to many contemporary scholars who contribute to MIL research from various areas of psychology such as existential psychology, positive psychology, and mindfulness (e.g., Heintzelman & King, 2019; Martela & Steger, 2016). Despite its presence in many areas, MIL is widely recognized as a central element of positive psychology (Seligman, 2011), a modern field that focuses on the flourishing of human beings and prevention of pathologies that arise when life gets tough (Seligman & Csikszentmihalyi, 2000).

## 1.2. Definitions of MIL

Many researchers agree that MIL suffers from definitional ambiguity (George & Park, 2016a; King & Hicks, 2021; King et al., 2006; Martela & Steger, 2016). The myriad of MIL definitions and combinations of dimensions that are seen across studies point to a dire lack of conceptual clarity. It is only recently that growing consensus has appeared among contemporary MIL scholars.

Traditional or existential definitions of MIL largely focus on having an overarching purpose. One of these earlier explanations belonged to Viktor Frankl (2006), a key pioneer of the psychological study of MIL. Frankl wrote extensively on the subject of MIL, with the following passage as one of his many capturing the heart of the construct:

“What a man actually needs is not a tensionless state but rather the striving and struggling for a worthwhile goal, a freely chosen task. What he needs is not the discharge of tension at any cost but the call of a potential meaning waiting to be fulfilled by him” (p. 105).

Another existentialist definition, zeroing in on meaning as purpose, belongs to Irvin Yalom. According to Yalom (1980),

“One who possesses a sense of meaning experiences life as having some purpose or function to be fulfilled, some overriding goal or goals to which to apply oneself” (p. 425).

From Frankl (2006) and Yalom's (1980) definitions, two things are clear: MIL was viewed as unidimensional, and that one dimension was purpose. However, one can argue that Frankl's view of meaning was perhaps not as unidimensional as it appeared to be (Frankl, 2006). His work might have a clear stance on purpose, but it also alluded to two dimensions which are now widely accepted as part of MIL: coherence and significance. Coherence is implied in Frankl's (2006) notion of meaning born from changing one's attitude in the face of unavoidable suffering. Significance is implied in Frankl's notion of meaning felt by experiencing the beauty of life and being loved by another.

As intimated, contemporary literature holds a more expanded view of MIL, with scholars explicitly agreeing to a tripartite model of the construct. King et al. (2006) define MIL as:

“Lives may be experienced as meaningful when they are felt to have a significance beyond the trivial or momentary, to have purpose, or to have a coherence that transcends chaos” (p. 180).

More recently, George and Park (2016a) define MIL as:

“...the extent to which one's life is experienced as making sense, as being directed and motivated by valued goals, and as mattering in the world” (p. 206).

Prominent MIL scholars, Martela and Steger (2016), operationalize MIL as:

“...emerging from the web of connections, interpretations, aspirations, and evaluations that (1) make our experiences comprehensible, (2) direct our efforts toward desired futures and (3) provide a sense that our lives matter and are worthwhile” (p. 538).

A Thai researcher, Sangaroon (2019), define MIL as:

“Being aware of or feeling like life has value, importance, purpose in life, and coherence, leading to a sense of fulfillment that makes one aspire to live on to do good deeds for themselves and the world.” (Definition has been translated from Thai into English.)

Based on these four contemporary definitions, MIL has taken on a much more comprehensive meaning compared to its early days when the construct was equated with purpose. Broadly speaking, all four conceptualizations of MIL and their dimensions are largely similar to one another, despite differences in terminology: (1) Coherence = Comprehension, (2) Purpose = Purpose, (3) Significance = Mattering. Table 1 tabulates the different dimensions included in each researcher’s definitions.

Table 1 Dimensions of MIL by different researchers

| Researcher                | Dimension |         |              |
|---------------------------|-----------|---------|--------------|
|                           | Coherence | Purpose | Significance |
| Frankl (2006)             |           | ✓       |              |
| Yalom (1980)              |           | ✓       |              |
| King et al. (2006)        | ✓         | ✓       | ✓            |
| George and Park (2016a)   | ✓         | ✓       | ✓            |
| Martela and Steger (2016) | ✓         | ✓       | ✓            |
| Sangaroon (2019)          | ✓         | ✓       | ✓            |

To take on an inclusive and contemporary view of MIL, this research operationalized MIL as a tripartite construct as suggested by King et al. (2006), George and Park (2016a), Martela and Steger (2016), and Sangaroon (2019). Synthesizing

these contemporary definitions and the MIL concepts and theories reviewed later in this chapter, this research paper defines MIL as the students' reflective interpretation of the extent to which they (1) understand and accept themselves and their life experiences, feel a sense of resilience born from having a well-defined identity and reconstructed meanings of experiences, experience continuity in life, (2) have valued goals, are motivated to pursue their valued goals, continually assess and realign their valued goals, (3) believe their life matters, and feel that they are able to live up to society's standards achieved through faith, worldly contributions, relationships, or everyday enjoyment.

### **1.3. Dimensions of MIL**

Throughout the years, the dimensions of MIL have progressed along with the MIL definitions. For instance, when MIL was generally defined as purpose, MIL only had one dimension which was purpose. Because this paper subscribes to the contemporary tripartite definition of MIL, it follows that the researcher accepts MIL as having three dimensions. These three dimensions of (1) Coherence, (2) Purpose, and (3) Significance are explained below, based largely on Martela and Steger's (2016) conceptualizations.

#### **Coherence**

Coherence is the "sense of comprehensibility and one's life making sense" (Martela & Steger, 2016, p. 534). Individuals experience coherence when they are able to observe patterns in their lives in a way that renders the wholeness comprehensible (George & Park, 2016a, Sangaroon, 2019; Martela & Steger, 2016). The pieces of life fit well together and make sense, engendering clarity. There is an understanding that things happen as they ought to. There is some level of predictability and routine (King et al., 2016).

#### **Purpose**

Purpose is the "sense of core goals, aims, and direction in life" (Martela & Steger, 2016, p. 534). The same elements of goals and direction in life are also present in George and Park (2016a), King et al. (2006), and Sangaroon's (2019) work.

Individuals experience purpose when they have a clear view of and commitment to their future-oriented goals. There is a sense of engagement, direction, and pull toward these goals.

### **Significance**

Significance is the “sense of life’s inherent value and having a life worth living” (Martela & Steger, 2016, p. 534). Individuals experience significance when their lives are evaluated as important and worthwhile (King et al., 2006, Sangaroon, 2019; Martela & Steger, 2016). It is an aspect of meaning easily found in everyday life experiences that people deem intrinsically valuable (King & Hicks, 2021). Such experiences could be mattering in relationships (Hill, 2018), loving someone, being enclosed in nature and culture, or simply finding goodness, truth, and beauty in any moment of life (Frankl, 2006).

To conclude, this paper asserts that there are three dimensions to MIL, namely, coherence, purpose, and significance. Coherence is defined by understanding how the pieces of one’s life fit together to form a wholeness that makes sense and offers some level of predictability. Purpose is defined by valued goals that provide life direction. Significance is defined by the value felt from evaluating one’s life as important, including the value felt in everyday life experiences.

#### **1.4. Measurements of MIL**

Undoubtedly, a variety of MIL definitions is fertile ground for a variety of MIL instruments. The same ambiguity experienced in MIL conceptualization extends to its measurement, further solidifying MIL as a complex construct that lacks conceptual consensus (Brandstatter et al., 2012). Table 2 puts together a list of most widely used MIL instruments gleaned from three different reviews of MIL measures, whilst Table 3 provides a subscale review of the instruments.

Looking at Table 2, it should be noted that this list of 7 dominant measures is only a small portion of the host of available MIL instruments. The two most popular MIL instruments, as mentioned by all 3 reference studies, are Meaning in Life (MLQ) (Steger et al., 2006) and Purpose in Life (PIL) (Crumbaugh & Maholick, 1964). Other widely used

MIL instruments include Psychological Wellbeing – Purpose Subscale (PWB-PIL) (Ryff, 1989), Functional assessment for Chronic Illness Therapy-Spiritual Well-Being: Meaning subscale (FACIT-Sp) (Peterman et al., 2002), Quality of Life Scale (QOLS) (Burckhardt & Anderson, 2003; Flanagan, 1978), Life Attitude Profile Revised (LAP-Revised) - Personal Meaning Index (Reker, 1992), and Life Regard Index (LRI) – Revised (Debats, 1996).

Table 2 Most widely used MIL instruments

| Most widely used MIL instruments   | Reference study 1:<br>Brandstatter et al.<br>(2012)* | Reference study 2:<br>George and Park<br>(2016b)* | Reference study 3:<br>Manco and Hamby<br>(2021)* |
|--|--|---|--|
| Meaning in Life Questionnaire (MLQ)<br>(Steger et al., 2006)   | ✓  | ✓   | ✓  |
| Purpose in Life (PIL)<br>(Crumbaugh & Maholick, 1964)  | ✓  | ✓   | ✓  |
| Psychological Wellbeing – Purpose Subscale<br>(PWB-PIL)<br>(Ryff, 1989)  |  | ✓   |  |
| Functional assessment for Chronic Illness<br>Therapy-Spiritual Well-Being: Meaning<br>subscale (FACIT-Sp)<br>(Peterman et al., 2002) |  |   | ✓  |
| Quality of Life Scale (QOLS)<br>(Burckhardt & Anderson, 2003; Flanagan,<br>1978)   |  |   | ✓  |
| Life Attitude Profile Revised (LAP-Revised) -<br>Personal Meaning Index<br>(Reker, 1992) **  | ✓  |   |  |
| Life Regard Index (LRI) - Revised<br>(Debats, 1996) **   | ✓  |   |  |

\*Reference 1 includes instruments that have been used at least 20 times in past MIL research, whilst References 2 & 3 include instruments mentioned as most widely used.

\*\*Although research refers to the original version of the instrument, the revised version is selected over the original version for this review.

Despite growing acceptance of MIL as a tripartite construct, dominant MIL measures tend to be unidimensional, conforming with earlier “purpose” definitions of MIL. Table 3 shows that the first four widely used MIL instruments have no subscales (this includes the MLQ which essentially has no subscales when considering just



presence of meaning like other measures). For these instruments, MIL is measured as one unidimensional lumped score. When parsing these 4 instruments' items, one sees not only the equating of a single tripartite subconstruct to an overall MIL score (i.e., MLQ, PWB-PIL), but also the conflating of different subconstructs into a lumped score (i.e., PIL, FACIT-Sp: Meaning Subscale). To illustrate the first part of this claim, the PWB-PIL contains a total of 7 items and all 7 items correspond only to purpose (Ryff, 1989). To illustrate the second part of the claim and to take the previous example further, the PIL which produces an aggregate purpose score includes the item, "If I should die today, I would feel that my life has been completely worthless – very worthwhile" (Crumbaugh & Maholick, 1964); this corresponds to the contemporary definition of significance (e.g., Martela & Steger, 2016). The issue with this is the resulting simplistic view of a complex construct which prevents detailed study of individual subconstructs (George & Park, 2016b). Additionally, many of these widely used instruments contain items which use the term "meaning" to measure either MIL or the subscales of MIL. For instance, the MLQ includes the items, "I understand my life's meaning" and "I have a good sense of what makes my life meaningful" (Steger et al., 2006). What statements like these require is a reliance on people's intuitive sense of what "meaning" or "meaningful" means, adding unaccounted and uncontrollable variance into the MIL score (George & Park, 2016b).

Turning to the last three widely used MIL instruments in Table 3, these instruments are multidimensional, containing at least 2 subscales of MIL. Unfortunately, these multi-faceted measures do not correspond well to the tripartite model and accepted conceptualizations of coherence, purpose, and significance (George & Park, 2016b). For instance, the QOL has five subscales representing the different domains of life and items pointing to activities or sources of meaning rather than facets of meaning (e.g., Material and physical well-being: "Health - being physically fit and vigorous") (Burckhardt & Anderson, 2003; Flanagan, 1978). One item in the scale also alludes to coherence ("Understanding yourself - knowing your assets and limitations - knowing what life is about"). The same can be seen with the LRI-Revised which contains 2

subscales, Framework and Fulfillment, and a mix of items corresponding to the tripartite subconstructs within both subscales (e.g., Framework: “I have a clear idea of what I’d like to do with my life.” – alludes to purpose) (Debats, 1996). Unfortunately, even with measures containing subscales that correspond well to accepted tripartite conceptualizations, these subscales include items that crossover among the tripartite subconstructs (George & Park, 2016b). For instance, the LAP-Revised with the subscales of Purpose and Coherence has, under the Coherence subscale, items pertaining to significance (e.g., Coherence: “I have a philosophy of life that gives my existence significance.” – alludes to significance) (Reker, 1992).

In Thailand, a review of MIL assessments used in Thai research studies identified 4 Thai-translated MIL instruments, two of which are part of the review above: The Purpose in Life-Part A (PIL-Part A), The Seeking of Noetic Goals (SONG), The Meaning in Suffering Test-Part 1 (MIST-Part1), and The Meaning in Life Questionnaire (MLQ) (Nilchantuk, 2020). Not as widely used is the College Student Meaning in Life Test (CSMLT) recently developed by Sangaroon (2019).

Table 3 Most widely used MIL instruments and their subscales

| Most widely used MIL instruments   | Subscales (No. of items)  |
|--|---|
| Meaning in Life Questionnaire (MLQ)<br>(Steger et al., 2006)   | 2 subscales (10):<br>Presence of MIL (5)<br>Search for MIL (5)  |
| Purpose in Life (PIL)<br>(Crumbaugh & Maholick, 1964)  | No subscales (20)   |
| Psychological Wellbeing – Purpose Subscale (PWB-PIL)<br>(Ryff, 1989)   | No subscales (7)  |
| Functional assessment for Chronic Illness Therapy-Spiritual Well-Being<br>(FACIT-Sp) – Meaning Subscale<br>(Peterman et al., 2002) | No subscales (4)  |
| Quality of Life Scale (QOLS)<br>(Burckhardt & Anderson, 2003; Flanagan, 1978)  | 5 subscales (16):<br>Material and physical well-being (2)<br>Relationships with other people (4)<br>Social, community, and civic activities (2)<br>Personal development and fulfillment (4)<br>Recreation (3)<br>Additional non-subscale item (1) |

Table 3 (cont'd)

| Most widely used MIL instruments  | Subscales (No. of items)                                |
|---|---|
| Life Attitude Profile Revised (LAP-Revised) - Personal Meaning Index<br>(Reker, 1992) | 2 subscales (16)<br>Purpose (8)<br>Coherence (8)        |
| Life Regard Index (LRI) - Revised<br>(Debats, 1996)                                   | 2 subscales (28):<br>Framework (14)<br>Fulfillment (14) |

This table contains information from the reviews of Brandstatter et al. (2012), George and Park (2014), and this study's researcher's own review of each instrument's source paper/items.

To date, three instruments capture the accepted tripartite MIL conceptualization and measure coherence, purpose, and significance separately. (see Table 4).

The first of these scales is the aforementioned CSMLT (Sangaroon, 2019; 2020). This Thai scale was developed specifically for the college student population and has 40 items with no subscale separation. The test was administered on 917 students, ages 17-25, from 5 universities across Thailand. The confirmatory analyses verified that all indicators belonging to each subconstruct and all 3 subconstructs measured the MIL conceptualization. All items had an Item of Index of Item Objective Congruence (IOC) score of at least 0.66 and an item discrimination power of at least .20, indicating good content validity. Moreover, the instrument had a Cronbach's Alpha coefficient of 0.91, indicating excellent reliability. Although the instrument has favorable psychometric properties, it contains items which use the term "meaning," similar to its unidimensional predecessors. One example is, "My life is meaningless." Such items create ambiguity in the relevant subscale and rely on people's sense of what "meaning" entails. As the study did not provide subscale labels, the ambiguous items also make it difficult to correctly assign the items to each subscale. Research did not yield existing studies utilizing the CSMLT.

The second instrument is the Multidimensional Existential Meaning Scale (MEMS) (George & Park, 2016a, 2016b). The MEMS was developed to address the lack of existing measures that support the contemporary tripartite view and was designed to

operationalize George and Park's (2016a) own definition of MIL which label the subconstructs as Comprehension, Purpose, and Mattering. The instrument has three distinct subscales corresponding to the three subconstructs and each subscale has 5 items, adding up to 15 items in total. Sample items include "My life makes sense." – for comprehension, "I have certain life goals that compel me to keep going." – for purpose, and "I am certain that my life is of importance." – for mattering (George & Park, 2016b). The scale was administered to three samples of undergraduate students (n=188, n=262, n=160) from a large university in the United States and tested alongside other scales such as the MLQ-Presence of meaning subscale (Steger et al., 2006). The exploratory and confirmatory factor analyses confirmed that the MEMS items were consistent with the tripartite conceptualization and that the scale items fit better with a three-factor model (tripartite view) than a single factor model (general MIL view) (George & Park, 2016a, 2016b). The MEMS subscales also yielded good reliability scores with Cronbach's alphas ranging from 0.84 to 0.90 and test-retest scores ranging from 0.75 to 0.85. In terms of validity, the MEMS subscales strongly correlated with other MIL measures, with correlation coefficients mostly ranging from 0.6 to 0.8. Moreover, the MEMS subscales together explained 60-70% of the total variance in other MIL measures, suggesting that the MEMS does measure MIL. The subscales also individually account for a significant amount of variance in other MIL measures, confirming that the subscales are unique and not redundant. Despite its existence, the application of the MEMS is limited in research; existing studies test the psychometric properties of their adaption of the instrument in other languages e.g., Polish (Gerymski & Krok, 2020), Chinese (Zhou et al., 2018).

The third instrument corresponding to the MIL trichotomy is the Multidimensional Meaning in life Scale (MMILS) (Costin & Vignoles, 2019). The scale is a proposed improvement of the MEMS with one of its key objectives being to address the lack of reversed-phrased items in the MEMS which may lead to an acquiescent response style. On top of the 3 tripartite subscales, the final MMILS includes a fourth subscale measuring MIL judgments or the subjective appraisal of meaning. Items in this

subscale contain variations of the word “meaning,” which reflect the makeup of most dominant unidimensional MIL measures with an aggregate score (as previously reviewed) to test the precursory relationship between the tripartite subconstructs and the judgment subscale. This is, however, beyond the scope of this research study which only seeks to measure the presence of the MIL trichotomy. The MMILS-Coherence, Purpose, and Mattering (MMILS-CPM) subscales have a total of 12 items with 4 items belonging to each subscale (2 positive and 2 reversed-phrased items). Positive items are identical to the MEMS except for one purpose item, “I have a good sense of what I am trying to accomplish in life.” The MMILS was administered to 314 participants, ages 18 and over, recruited online from a mix of countries. The MMILS-CPM subscales yielded good reliability scores with composite reliability ranging from 0.77-0.92. Confirmatory factor analysis revealed an adequate model fit, suggesting adequate construct validity. The study also confirmed that despite strong correlation between subscales, each is distinct from one another. Compared to the MEMS, there appears to be even fewer research studies related to the MMILS.

Table 4 Tripartite MIL instruments, subscales, development sample, and psychometric properties

| Tripartite MIL instruments   | Subscales (No. of items)   | Development Sample             | Reliability            | Validity   |
|--|--|--------------------------------|------------------------|--|
| College Student Meaning in Life Test (CSMLT) (Sangaroon, 2019, 2020) | 3 subscales (40): Coherence, Purpose, Significance (unable to discern no. of items by subscale, as subscales were not separated) | Undergraduate students (n=917) | Cronbach's alpha: 0.91 | The confirmatory factor analyses confirmed indicators and subconstructs measured MIL: 1 <sup>st</sup> order b = 0.44-0.84, p = .01, SE = 0.04-0.07, R <sup>2</sup> = 0.19-0.70<br>2 <sup>nd</sup> order b = Coherence 1.00, Significance 0.79, Purpose 0.78, SE = 0.04-0.07, R <sup>2</sup> = 1.00, 0.63, 0.61, respectively |

Table 4 (cont'd)

| Tripartite MIL instruments   | Subscales (No. of items)  | Development Sample  | Reliability  | Validity   |
|--|---|---|--|--|
| Multidimensional Existential Meaning Scale (MEMS) (George & Park, 2016b) | 3 subscales (15):<br>Comprehension (5)<br>Purpose (5)<br>Mattering (5)                  | 3 samples of undergraduate students (n=188, n=262, and n=160) | Cronbach's alpha for each subscale in each consecutive sample:<br>Comprehension 0.90, 0.90, 0.90, Purpose 0.89, 0.89, 0.88, Mattering 0.84, 0.85, 0.90.<br>Test-retest after 2 weeks, resulted in the following correlational coefficients:<br>Comprehension 0.75, Purpose 0.75, Mattering 0.85. | The MEMS subscales yielded very strong relationships with other MIL measures (e.g., MLQ-Presence subscale) with most correlational coefficients ranging from 0.60 to 0.80. Moreover, the MEMS subscales together explained 60-70% of the total variance in other MIL measures. |
| Multidimensional MIL Scale (MMILS) (Costin & Vignoles, 2019)             | 4 subscales (16):<br>MIL judgments (4)<br>Coherence (4)<br>Purpose (4)<br>Mattering (4) | General public aged over 18 (n=314)                           | Composite reliability:<br>Coherence 0.77<br>Purpose 0.85<br>Mattering 0.92   | The confirmatory factor analysis (with 8 test subscales) showed adequate fit: $\chi^2(831) = 1414.37, p < .001$ ; CFI = .894; RMSEA = .048 (90% CI [.044, .053]); SRMR = .062  |

Although both the MEMS and MMILS have good psychometric properties, either measure cannot be utilized as is because the “mattering” scale does not adequately capture the present study’s definition of the significance subconstruct. In these instruments, significance is conceptualized as “existential mattering” with items such as “Whether my life ever existed matters even in the grand scheme of the universe,” and “Even considering how big the universe is, I can say that my life matters” (Costin & Vignoles, 2019; George & Park, 2016b). This conceptualization of significance neglects everyday experiences which can make a person feel valuable, inherent in Martela and Steger’s (2016) definition and aligning with the views of other scholars and psychologists (e.g., Frankl, 2006; King & Hicks, 2021). To reiterate, the scope of significance in this paper includes not only grand experiences but also everyday

experiences which can engender value and worth in one's life. This latter perspective adds tangibility to the conceptualization, making it more suitable for the first-year university student population in Thailand. Thus, the researcher chose to adapt the CSMLT, MEMS, and MMILS to create a scale that reflects the MIL conceptualization of this research paper.

### **1.5. Concepts and theories of MIL**

Experiencing MIL requires that we not only passively experience the world but also actively interpret it (Hill, 2018; Martela & Steger, 2016). It is a unique human capability to be able to thoroughly reflect on life and sense the meaning in our human experiences. The following theoretical review will cover how our reflective thinking in the cognitive, motivational, and evaluative domains of experience helps us to find coherence, purpose, and significance in life, and how these three subconstructs are crucial components of MIL.

#### **1.5.1. Coherence: Narrative Identity Theory and Meaning Maintenance Model (MMM)**

Coherence is born from being able to form and entertain mental representations about the world and drawing sense from them (Martela & Steger, 2016). Active cognitive effort is required to engender coherence. One theory that explains coherence from a sense-of-self perspective (i.e., how one views oneself) is the Narrative Identity Theory (McAdams & Cox, 2010). McAdams and Cox (2010) talk about the I and the Me; the "I" being the author and the "Me" being the dynamic autobiographical novel or in other words, the storyteller and the story. Constructing a narrative identity is the main psychosocial challenge of emerging adulthood. It is the task of the "I" to arrange the "Me" into an integrative, meaningful sequence of life events to explain how the "I" has developed into who they are and how the "I" will go on to develop in the future. In this life novel, one's culture plays a critical role as the editor. It is the hand of culture which provides opportunities as well as constraints, supplying one with the structure of a typical life such as the progression of school, work, marriage, family, and retirement milestones. The objective is an evolving life story that "provides life with some



semblance of unity, purpose, and meaning” (p. 201) that “makes psychological sense” (McAdams & Cox, 2010, p. 191) to the person. Events are connected through causal coherence (an understanding of how one event led up to the next) with an overarching thematic coherence to tie the different life episodes together into a logical story (Habermas & Bluck, 2000). Positive events in life are easily savored and relived by the “I”, whereas negative events require an explanation from the “I” to make sense of the bad things that happened (McAdams & Cox, 2010). Sometimes the “I” discounts the experience through processes like repression and denial, and other times the “I” tries to make meaning out of suffering. This is a critical task within narrative identity that is not taken lightly, for an unexamined life is a life void of depth and meaning (Pals, 2006). In rationalizing negative events, the “I” must, first, deeply explore the negative experience, analyzing the accompanying feelings past and present, how it came about, what may come after, and how the experience affects one’s understanding of oneself. Once that is done, the “I” can then work out and commit to a positive narrative of the event.

Moving from a sense-of-self perspective to a broader, evolutionary perspective, the Meaning Maintenance Model (MMM) is another theory that can be used to understand coherence (Heine et al., 2006). From an evolutionary view, being able to make sense, find patterns, and establish predictability help organisms plan for their future in a way that offers a survival advantage (Hill, 2018; Martela & Steger, 2016). MMM puts forth 3 central claims to explain meaning: (1) Meaning is relation, (2) Humans are meaning makers, and (3) Disruptions to meaning frameworks lead people to reaffirm alternative frameworks (Heine et al., 2006). The first claim, meaning is relation, asserts that people seek coherent relations within 3 general domains: the external world, the self, and the self in the external world. Our relation to the external world is supported by our expectations of how relationships between people, places, things, and events should be. For instance, we expect dogs to not speak and snow to be cold. The self, on the other hand, harbors beliefs about oneself or expected self-relations that connect oneself across time, roles, and context. For instance, we would expect some sort of understandable continuity between our past-self 10 years ago and our present self, and



that our thoughts, behaviors roles, and autobiographical memories make sense. Perhaps the most important coherent relations we seek, are the relations between the self and the external world. As humans, we desire to be a part of the outside world, of lasting relations and community. When our mental representations of these relationships are threatened, there is an urgent need to repair meaning or “maintain meaning”, more urgent than our need to repair meanings in other relational domains. Nevertheless, damage to any personally salient framework, will provoke greater urgency to reconstruct meaningful associations. The second claim, humans are meaning makers, asserts that humans have an innate capacity to build meaning frameworks and to identify and fix framework breakdowns/inconsistencies; this capacity has been described as an “innate relational impulse,” as a “capacity [that] is always on” (Heine et al., 2006, p. 91). Humans’ reliance on relational structures to survive in their complex social/cultural world is much greater than any species. It is highly adaptive for humans to understand the intentions of one another and understand complex orders of relations within their world, and the mental frameworks we construct surrounding this varies vastly across cultures. From an evolutionary point of view, it is not difficult to understand why being confronted with meaninglessness is problematic, and why we must reconstruct meaning when meaning is disrupted. At the end, maintaining relational regularity among all relational domains allows us to predict and control events. It is why we continue to succeed as a species. The final claim MMM makes is one on reaffirming alternative frameworks following disruption. This is also termed as fluid compensation. When a meaning framework is disrupted, people can either (1) Revise the framework to accommodate the new experience, (2) Reinterpret the experience to assimilate it into their existing framework, or (3) Reaffirm an alternative framework – MMM introduces the 3rd response, which they say is used when the framework is too damaged and the first 2 responses (addressing the threat itself) cannot be used. According to MMM, breakdown in one meaning framework will spur the person to reaffirm any alternative framework that is intact, coherent, and readily available. What this does is compensate for loss of meaning by allowing individuals to refocus their attention to a coherent framework, other than the

damaged, insensible framework. Individuals can choose to “fluidly” reaffirm within or across the 3 domains of relations (e.g., external world, self, self and external world). For example, when people are reminded of their own impending mortality, their relation between the self and external world is threatened. In response to that people may see patterns within noise (external world) or desire high status products (self and external world). Overall, MMM contends that humans have an inherent need to make sense of their experiences, and when their expectations of how the world should be is disrupted, distress stirs this innate capacity to (re)construct meaning.

Both Narrative Identity Theory and MMM are reminiscent of Frankl's (2006) idea of attitudinal change in the face of unavoidable suffering. Although Frankl does not mention the need for coherence, the need for a person to understand, to make sense of their hopeless situation is implied. One of Frankl's popular sayings goes, “suffering ceases to be suffering at the moment it finds a meaning” (p. 113). For instance, a man whose wife dies before him may come to terms with this by seeing it as a sacrifice, as him saving her from the distress of outliving him.

Whether it is from a sense of self or evolutionary perspective, coherence is a core aspect of our very being and meaning in our lives. The Narrative Identity Theory (McAdams & Cox, 2010) explains coherence from the “Author-I” and “Story-Me” metaphors, asserting that the “I” is always reflectively trying to rearrange the self's life experiences into an ever-evolving integrative and meaningful “Me” or life story. Additionally, MMM (Heine et al., 2006) claims that meaning is equivalent to relations within the self, the world, and between the self and the world, that humans will always build and reconstruct meaning frameworks that restore regularity, and that when a meaning framework is damaged, humans are capable of relying on unrelated, alternative frameworks to alleviate distress from incoherence. Thus, the inherent need to find sense and restore a sense of predictability post disruption makes coherence a vital component of MIL.

### 1.5.2. Purpose: Self-Regulation Model

Purpose arises from valued motivations that drive intentional behavior (Martela & Steger, 2016). At the heart of purpose is deep motivational work. A theory that offers useful insight into the purpose subconstruct is Carver and Scheier's (1998) Self-Regulation Model. The Self-Regulation Model contends that goals play a central role in human behavior, that behaviors can be explained as a process of identifying and pursuing goals. The model proposes that goals are ordered in a hierarchy, with abstract, higher-level goals (known as "be" goals) at the top and concrete, lower-level goals (known as "do" goals) at the bottom. Abstract goals high up in the hierarchy beget concrete goals at lower levels which continue to beget even more concrete goals below. For instance, the abstract goal of being a thoughtful person may give rise to the more concrete goal of preparing dinner, which gives rise to the even more concrete goal of slicing broccoli. The highest-level goals are "be" goals because they specify how one wants to be, a vision of one's ideal self (e.g., to be thoughtful). The higher the goals, the more important and reflective they are of a person's sense of self or identity. These goals provide reference values which help determine the "do" goals that guide our behavior and ultimately, direction in life. "Being" a particular way requires "doing" certain actions. One can also view a higher-level goal as the "end" and lower-level goals as the "means." The clearer and more specific higher-level goals are, the easier it is to identify and pursue lower-level goals. Those with clearly specified "be" goals such as being a thoughtful person are better able to adjust or find alternatives to their lower-level "do" goals, when these "do" goals are blocked. An important aspect of these abstract be-goals is that because they reflect a person's values, they can never be fully attained. These goals representing one's highest ideals, become a powerful incentive for one to act a certain way or do certain things; they motivate behavior. If a person does not perceive a goal to have any value, they will unlikely engage in goal-pursuit behavior. This feature of the Self-Regulation Model is congruent with other well-known motivation theories such as the Expectancy-Value Model (Eccles, 1983) and the Self-Determination Theory (Ryan & Deci, 2000). The former accords value of goal (utility task value) as a

subset of one of two general determinants of motivation, and the latter talks of having the autonomy to choose own valued goals as one of three key determinants of motivation. This “striving and struggling” for a “freely chosen” “worthwhile goal” (p. 105) is also central to Frankl’s (2006) work on MIL. This links back to the Self-Regulation Model’s emphasis on goal striving. According to the Self-Regulation Model, “goal engagement is a necessity of life...without goal engagement, life ceases” (Carver & Scheier, 1998, p. 346). The core of successful self-regulation is, therefore, the need to continuously “regulate” our goal striving behavior, to continuously identify and attain valued goals and to adopt new goals when current goals are completed or cannot be attained.

Purpose has always been central to MIL throughout the journey of definitional ambiguities in MIL literature. For a long time, it was (and some might say it still is) synonymous with meaning. The Self-Regulation Model highlights the way purpose, actualized via pursuing valued goals (with motivation inherent in the pursuit), plays a vital role as a subconstruct of MIL. At the top of the hierarchy of goals are “be goals” which reflect our values, ideals, and identity. And lower down the hierarchy are the “do goals” which serve to carry out actions dedicated to achieving our “be goals.” Without goal engagement, there can be no life. And if life ceases when one has no valued goal to strive for, then surely purpose must provide life with a meaning to live.

### **1.5.3. Significance: Terror Management Theory (TMT)**

Significance is felt when we evaluate our lives against our values, expectations, and standards, to discern how we live up to them (Martela & Steger, 2016). A lot of evaluative effort goes into developing significance. Unlike coherence and purpose, significance as a component of MIL does not have a big body of research to fall back on (Hill, 2018; Martela & Steger, 2016). One theory that can be used to shed light on significance is Terror Management Theory (TMT) (Greenberg et al., 1986). TMT lays out that all organisms, including humans, have the instinct of self-preservation (Solomon et al., 1991). However, what differentiates us from other animals is our superior intellectual capability that, while providing us with incredible flexibility and adaptability, also burdens us with the awareness of an uncontrollable fate: our inevitable death. Our

human ability to imagine and contemplate possible futures such as our own death (e.g., we can die at any time for any reason) creates the perpetual potential for intense primal fear, which TMT refers to as terror (Pyszczynski et al., 2015; Solomon et al., 1991). This potential for terror from such awareness would likely sabotage our survival or self-preservation if we did not have some sort of coping system, a system which would allow us to believe that we are inherently more significant and enduring than other organisms. Our very same cognitive capacity responsible for this terrifying awareness is also responsible for its resolution: the creation of culture. Humans create and cling to cultural realities or symbolic conception of the universe that represent absolute realities for individual members of a culture. These constructions or cultural world views “give life meaning, purpose, and significance” (Pyszczynski et al., 2015, p. 8). Specifically, cultural worldviews provide (1) standards by which a person can be assessed to have value, and (2) immortality to those who fulfill the standards of value. According to TMT, there are two types of immortality that assuage fear of death: literal and symbolic (Pyszczynski et al., 2015; Solomon et al., 1991). Literal immortality is derived from believing in an afterlife via religious or spiritual beliefs, that life continues beyond death. Symbolic immortality comes from being part of something bigger than oneself, being valued contributors that have made a permanent mark on the world. People experience symbolic immortality when they feel like a part of them exists after their own death. This could be via families, fortunes, awards, monuments, memories, ideas, books, pictures, music, and all other things that persist beyond their mortal life. When individuals live up to the standards of their worldview, they are rewarded with the immortal feeling of being a “valuable member of a meaningful universe” (Solomon et al., 1991, p. 97). TMT equates this to self-esteem. Individuals are so driven to maintain their self-esteem and significance that they consistently seek validation from those who share their worldviews, and at the same time, invalidate diverging worldviews (Pyszczynski et al., 2015).

Expanding on TMT's grand sense of significance is the tangible view of significance which focuses on the sense of life's inherent value derived from everyday

experiences. According to King and Hicks (2021), meaning can be found in daily life encounters that people deem intrinsically valuable. Hill (2018) proposed the felt sense of importance from mattering in relationships. This is also supported by Frankl (2006), who not only wrote about experiencing love but also on appreciating nature and culture, and finding goodness, truth, and beauty in any moment of life.

TMT (Greenberg et al., 1986) postulates that human behavior is fundamentally motivated by a desire to secure a sense of value, an enduring significance that transcends death, as a way of coping with death anxiety. When an individual is able to live up to the values of their cultural worldview, they feel like a significant person in a meaningful world. Tangible views of significance assert that humans can experience life's organic sense of value through ordinary encounters like falling in love with another person or with the natural world. Like its coherence and purpose counterparts, significance is an inherent human need, making it a fundamental dimension of MIL.

#### **1.5.4. Connections between coherence, purpose, and significance**

Although reviewed separately, the distinct subconstructs of coherence, purpose, and significance are closely related (George & Park, 2016a). This means the experience of one may influence the other: low levels of one component may result in low levels of another component and high levels of one component may result in high levels of another component. For instance, feeling like one's life is a tangled mess that does not make much sense might make it difficult to see one's life direction, and not seeing or pursuing a clear path of purpose could make one feel like their life has no value, and feeling insignificant could make it difficult to find that life makes sense. On the other hand, those who find their lives to be valuable may find it easier to understand life and see their life direction. Martela and Steger (2016) also provide a review of the potential connections that align with George and Park's (2016a) views above. Moreover, there is speculation of a synergistic relationship between the three facets such that the simultaneous experience of the facets could produce a combined effect, intensifying the experience of each and ultimately, the MIL construct as a whole (George & Park,



2016a). On the other hand, not all three components have to be present for a person to experience a sense of meaning (Hill, 2018).

### 1.6. Research studies on MIL

Despite a 50-year history within psychology, MIL has only experienced an explosion of empirical research and interest within the past 20 years (Martela & Steger, 2016). A lot of this empirical work is of correlational studies on MIL, whose outcomes continually establish meaning as crucial for healthy functioning (e.g., meta-analyses and systematic reviews: Czekierda et al., 2017; Li et al., 2021; Pinquart, 2002). In line with MIL's history of conceptual ambiguity, most studies measure MIL as a whole, using instruments that focus mainly on the purpose subconstruct. Because research on MIL as a tripartite construct is still in its early days, review of empirical evidence will draw from isolated studies that focus on coherence, purpose, and significance individually. Below is a review of MIL correlational studies.

#### Coherence

A study of university students in South Africa (n=258, ages 17-21) reported that having a sense of coherence predicted effective coping with stress (Hutchinson, 2005). Results suggest that individuals who perceive the world and their lives as comprehensible, manageable, and meaningful will possess a high ability to select effective stress-coping strategies. The comprehensibility domain (which most accurately captures coherence) was positively correlated to manageability (having control of the situation), meaningfulness (feeling like the situation makes sense emotionally), and sense of coherence. These results tying coherence and mental recovery together are consistent with findings of another study on post-traumatic stress. The study, conducted on 931 U.S. adults, found that individuals who were able to find meaning from the traumatic 9-11 terrorist attacks reported less post-traumatic stress symptoms than those who did not (Updegraff et al., 2008). This suggests that although trauma may lead to post-traumatic stress, being able to make sense of the traumatic event can assist recovery and foster MIL. Perhaps offering insight into how coherence potentially aids stress coping and recovery is a study done on a much more mundane

level of daily living. Heintzelman and King's (2019) study on 85 undergraduate students found that students who engaged in daily routines experienced higher levels of momentary MIL. This implies that even the most basic, coherent daily living can imbue a sense of MIL through simple predictability. Thus, coherence as a pathway to MIL evidently helps individuals understand and work through life's challenges.

### **Purpose**

A study of undergraduate (n=513) and graduate students (n=143) (83% aged between 17-29) revealed that goal-striving predicts eudaimonic well-being which refers to living an engaged and meaningful life (Kiaei & Reio Jr, 2014). Additionally, this relationship is partially mediated by metacognition. What this means is that the ability to think about one's thinking process (i.e., to self-regulate) assists individuals in their goal pursuit, resulting in higher levels of eudaimonic well-being. Moreover, the study also found goal-aspiration to moderate the predictive relationship between goal-striving and eudaimonic well-being. This implies that feeling inspired by personally worthwhile goals can elevate the eudaimonic well-being derived from goal pursuit. These findings are supported by another study that was conducted on a sample of 458 cardiac caregiver volunteers (Thoits, 2012). The study found that believing that one's life has direction and meaning is positively related to physical and psychological well-being (i.e., happiness, life-satisfaction, self-esteem, mastery, physical health, (reduced) psychological distress). In the same vein as the previous two studies, a study involving 427 Thai undergraduate students (63% aged between 18-20) reported that those with higher levels of MIL (as measured by PIL) had lower levels of stress (Pongsayaporn & Laurujisawat, 2019). Thus, research contends that purpose positively impacts psychological well-being.

### **Significance**

A study of over 500 undergraduate students found that having meaning predicted less suicidal ideation over time and lower lifetime odds of a suicide attempt (Kleiman & Beaver, 2013). Although the study does not directly assess significance, results suggest that a meaningful life is a life worth living, not to be terminated by



suicide. These results are further expanded by a study on cardiac volunteers that was also mentioned previously under purpose (Thoits, 2012). Volunteers who believed they mattered to other people yielded higher scores on physical and psychological well-being. Thus, when people feel that they matter, they experience a meaning that not only fosters their well-being but also protects against suicidal ideation.

Although not equivalent in density, there have been considerable experimental/intervention studies done to improve MIL across different age groups and population contexts (e.g., meta-analyses: Chu & Mak, 2020; Manco & Hamby, 2021; Vos et al., 2015). Below is a review of MIL intervention studies by dimension.

### **Coherence**

Heintzelman et al. (2013) ran 2 sets of experimental studies to discern the impact of manipulating coherence on feelings of MIL. The first set of studies was conducted on a total of 214 Amazon contract workers and involved rating photographs of trees presented in patterns. The first condition was a seasonal-pattern condition, whereby photographs of trees were presented in the order corresponding to spring, summer, autumn, and winter. The second condition was a random order condition, whereby photographs did not adhere to the typical seasonal cycle. The result was that systematic patterns led to higher MIL than randomness. Additionally, the second set of studies involving undergraduate students (n=60) and Amazon contract workers (n=169), explored how coherence in semantic triads (e.g., falling, actor, dust = star as the associative word) would influence MIL. Results were in line with the first set of studies: those assigned to read coherent triads had higher MIL than those assigned to read incoherent triads. Findings show that the experience of MIL is indeed sensitive to pattern or coherence. Results from another study corroborate these findings that link coherence with MIL while also shedding light on the positive impact of coherence. The study looked at how religious beliefs imbue a sense of meaning and order that can result in reduced anxiety and distress (Inzlicht & Tullett, 2010). Experiment 1 involved 41 undergraduate students who were told to explicitly think about their religion and experiment 2 involved 40 undergraduate students who were primed with religious concepts. All participants

then completed the Stroop task (e.g., identifying the color of color words) while having their neural activity measured. Results of both experiments revealed that those in the treatment condition emitted smaller signals associated with defensiveness in response to error in the Stroop task than those in the control condition. This suggests that meaning frameworks that offer coherence (e.g., religious beliefs) can help make sense of irregularity, helping people cope better with the pressures of living in an unpredictable world. Thus, in tune with correlational studies, intervention research confirms that coherence engenders MIL and helps individuals deal with stressful situations.

### **Purpose**

One counseling intervention study in support of purpose is the group logotherapy study conducted on Iranian university students who had high levels of meaninglessness and depression (Robotmili et al., 2015). As logotherapy is centered on values and goals, the process and outcome involved were purpose heavy (the study's instrument was PIL). 10 students received the group logotherapy treatment, whilst another 10 students were put on the waiting list for individual counseling. Results revealed that students who received group logotherapy had significantly higher MIL. Increased MIL effects were stable at the one-month follow-up mark. Such results suggest that intervention programs focused on values and goals are key to enhancing purpose. This understanding is in line with the results of a qualitative action study conducted on first year Thai university students (n=24) (Sumamal et al., 2020). The study's objective was to identify the key learning processes involved in enhancing the purpose in life of university students. Researchers created a Purpose Enhancing Program based on information from supporting documents and input from subject matter experts. Students took part in the program which was sectioned into workshops on (1) Self-awareness, (2) Self-development planning, and (3) Learning outcome reflection. After conducting observations, a focus group, in-depth interviews, and a subsequent content analysis, results revealed 5 key learning processes: (1) Mindfulness and meditation, (2) Introspection, (3) Recognition of one's purpose, (4) Engaging in activities that align with one's purpose, and (5) Reflecting on learning. The processes

involving deep awareness of oneself and one's goals and goal-congruent engagement are common themes that align with Carver and Scheier's (1998) Self-Regulation Model. Thus, research substantiates the central role that goal-focused processes play in promoting purpose.

### **Significance**

A series of experimental study illuminated how being forgotten can result in lowered significance and MIL (Ray et al., 2019). The first experiment involved 56 university students with the treatment group being asked to explicitly recall being forgotten in their daily life each day over a 2-week period (e.g., someone else forgetting the participant's personal details, someone else forgetting about a past interaction with the participant). Results revealed that participants reported lower scores on their perceived importance and MIL on the days they recorded being forgotten than on the days when they were not forgotten. The second experiment involved 44 university students who were asked to interact with a new acquaintance (a confederate), complete a series of measures assessing their feelings, and do an unexpected switch of results with the confederate, before being asked to complete the same measures and being reassured this time that results would not be shared with the confederate. Participants in the experimental group, during the unexpected switch, received results whereby the confederate had forgotten most of what the participant said. In accordance with results from study 1, participants who were in the forgotten condition provided a significantly reduced rating of importance compared to their original rating before the switch. These participants also reported lower MIL scores. Findings from both experiments emphasize that being forgotten and feeling like one does not matter impact one's perceived level of importance and sense of MIL. This insight aligns with findings from earlier correlational studies that reported the same correlational pattern in the opposite direction – that feeling like one matters correlates with higher MIL.

## 2. Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT)

After a literature review of the dependent variable, the MIL construct, the next section will review the study's intervention of interest, Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT).

### 2.1. Definition of ACT

Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT; read as one word) is “a psychological intervention based on modern behavioral and evolutionary principles, including RFT [Relational Frame Theory], that applies mindfulness and acceptance processes, and commitment and behavior change processes, to the creation of psychological flexibility (Luoma et al., 2017, p. 35)”. This definition contains key terms related to the supporting theory, processes, and outcome of ACT that will be clarified in the upcoming sections of the literature review.

### 2.2. Theories of ACT

The review of ACT theories will cover ACT's background as a third wave behavioral therapy, functional contextualism philosophy, Relational Frame Theory (RFT), assumptions of ACT, goal of ACT, six core processes of psychological flexibility, and implementing ACT.

#### 2.2.1. Behavioral therapy wave 3

Founded by Steven C. Hayes, ACT is a mindfulness-based intervention that belongs to the 3<sup>rd</sup> wave of behavior therapy (Hayes, 2004). Loyal to the tradition of behavior therapy, ACT is largely evidence-based, rooted in clinical behavior analysis. However, unlike its mechanistic predecessors, ACT is a much more contextualistic approach. 1<sup>st</sup> wave behavior therapies focused directly on observable, problematic behaviors, and emotions, contending that changes to both can be made via learning (e.g., conditioning). 2<sup>nd</sup> wave behavior therapies, while assimilating the 1<sup>st</sup> wave, shifted the focus toward targeting internal processes like language and cognition. Both waves viewed behavioral, emotional, and/or cognitive problems as being directly responsible for their consequences (e.g., problematic thought leads to problematic behaviors and/or emotions), and therefore changing the form or content of the problem can solve the

problem itself (e.g., eliminating the problematic thought). ACT, on the other hand, along with its 3<sup>rd</sup> wave counterparts, focuses on the psychological context of the problematic cognition, suggesting that change could occur from altering the function of the thought instead of its form. ACT is a holistic approach that builds upon the prior waves. This leads to the next section on Functional Contextualism Philosophy.

### **2.2.2. Functional Contextualism Philosophy**

ACT's contextualistic approach is based on the philosophy of Functional Contextualism (FC) (Hayes, 2004). FC has four core components with the first two being (1) Focuses on the whole event and (2) Invariably considers the context to understand the nature and function of an event. What this means is that every event or experience is looked at as an "ongoing act in context." As individuals can never be separated from their historically and situationally rooted context, analyzing the problematic behaviors removed from their context would mean an incomplete view of the full nature of the problem. The third and fourth criteria are (3) Emphasizes the pragmatic truth and (4) Requires goals against which to apply the pragmatic truth. The truth criterion considers what is true is what works. This means an individual's truth, reflected by how each person perceives the world, is prioritized over the objective or literal truth of an event. A person's truth is evaluated against their own values and how well they are living according to their values. What is true is what works for the person. Any change happens within the context of the individual. This is the practical heart of FC. All four components are reflected in ACT's way of addressing events and influencing change in a manner that is open and accepting of the whole context, "true" to the individual, and oriented toward the pursuit of valued goals required for a meaningful life. An easy way to think of FC is to ask, "is this behavior workable or functional in this context? What is the best way for this person to function in a given context?"

### **2.2.3. Relational Frame Theory (RFT)**

On top of the importance given to context is the importance given to cognition (Hayes, 2004). In this sense, a person's cognition within ACT is always tied to the person's context. This can be explained by the Relational Frame Theory (RFT). ACT

is built on RFT, a theory of language and cognition which operates on the FC philosophy. According to RFT, both language and cognition are influenced by relational frames. These are linguistic, mental frames that allow humans to derive complex relations among events and words as they think, speak, or listen. Central to RFT are the three main properties of relational learning that make up a relational frame: (1) Relations are bidirectional. When a person learns that A relates to B, they know that B must also relate to A. For instance, by learning that boiling water is hot, the person also learns that hot is same as boiling water in that context. (2) Relations are combinational. When a person learns that A relates to B and that B relates the C, they know that A must also relate to C. For instance, by learning that a penny is smaller than a nickel, and that a nickel is smaller than a dime, the person also learns that a penny is smaller than a dime. (3) Relations allow functions of a stimulus to be shared among related stimuli. For instance, knowing that a dime is the cost of a piece of candy, the person also knows that the same candy can be purchased with nickels (less valuable than the dime) and/or pennies (less valuable than the nickel). These RFT principles have implications for therapy or counseling. ACT asserts that these RFT properties are responsible for the core processes that lead to human suffering (Luoma et al., 2017). Basically, human language can be quite destructive. When humans encounter a problem, the relational properties of literal language increase the pervasiveness of the problem (Luoma et al., 2017), holding us prisoner to our own “verbal virtual reality” (Westrup & Wright, 2017, p. 10). Further exacerbating the pain, the massive problem now sets off our tendency to engage in problem solving thinking to get rid of the problem (Luoma et al., 2017). In the process, we try to avoid or escape our feelings, become stuck in our thoughts, and lose contact with the present moment. Consequently, we are less able to get in touch with our values and less able to act in a way that guides us toward a meaningful life. In short, the overextension of human language results in a rigid and psychologically inflexible way of life, known as psychological inflexibility. Luoma et al. (2017) covers six processes that underly psychological inflexibility. As these negative processes will inherently be explained in the positive processes of ACT (covered later), the researcher will only



highlight two key negative processes in this section: Experiential avoidance and cognitive fusion. Experiential avoidance occurs when a person tries to suppress thoughts and feelings which typically leads to their amplification, as thinking about avoiding something only serves to cue or strengthen existing relational frames of the thing (Hayes, 2004). Cognitive fusion occurs when a person becomes attached to their thoughts, with relational frames or environmental cues serving to further reinforce the thoughts even when the “cues” may not be there. It is clear from these two examples, that the words we humans use conceptualize and store events in our memory as enduring relational networks (Westrup & Wright, 2017). These networks live in our thoughts although they are no longer physically present. One simply cannot escape language. Nevertheless, the same RFT properties responsible for our suffering can actually be used to help put us on a path of valued living, as will be clarified in upcoming sections.

#### 2.2.4. Assumptions of ACT

Some of the key assumptions of ACT have been mentioned or at least alluded to in earlier paragraphs. The researcher would like to reiterate the assumptions here for clarity.

1. Dramatic change is not only possible but also possible in a short period of time (Hayes, 2004). In ACT, the true problem is the context and purpose of the behavior, not the deeply entrenched content of the problem. For instance, anxiety is not the problem of anxiety disorders, just as thought is not the problem of thought disorders. The human tendency to initially focus on the literal content of their problems and fight against them is not functional.

2. It is not possible nor healthy for therapists to try to rescue clients from their problems (Hayes, 2004). Although, given our knowledge of RFT, being human is inherently difficult for all, the client is responsible for their own growth. What the therapist can do is encourage the client to assess their view of the problem by questioning its workability (e.g., what is the value of this?) and not reasonableness (e.g., is this true or false / wrong or bad?).

3. “[Humans or] clients are whole and acceptable as they are” (Westrup & Wright, 2017, p. 13). This is an extension of the previous two assumptions. Clients and therapists, alike, cannot be separated from their context and thus, “deficiency” cannot be empirically established as the truth. Clients and therapists, alike, can fall prey to the workings of RFT. What we are dealing with, no matter how “problematic,” is simply unworkable behavior and clients are not viewed as sick, abnormal, or broken. We all struggle with unworkable behavior in our own lives to varying degrees.

#### **2.2.5. Goal of ACT**

In short, the goal of ACT is psychological flexibility (Luoma et al., 2017). Psychological flexibility is the capacity to be in contact with the present moment in order to leverage all possibilities available and subsequently behave in a manner congruent to valued goals and a meaningful life. Clients are assisted to flexibly move toward a valued direction, “with all of their history and automatic reactions” (Hayes, 2004, p. 652); nothing has to be removed or fought against for growth to occur.

#### **2.2.6. Six core processes of psychological flexibility**

There are six core processes to psychological flexibility which directly contrast or target the processes of inflexibility mentioned earlier (Luoma et al., 2017). It is important to mention that the six core processes of psychological flexibility are distinct but interrelated; the ability or changes in one can influence the ability of the other (Westrup & Wright, 2017). Psychological flexibility as a whole and its individual processes are assessed on a continuum and everyone, therapist and clients included, fall somewhere along the continua. Depending on where one falls, these processes can either manifest themselves as one's strengths or deficits to varying degrees. Figure 1 illustrates the six core processes which are explained below.

1. Contacting the present is the ability to contact or be with events as they occur, in the here and now (Luoma et al., 2017; Westrup & Wright, 2017). The key is to flexibly attend to the different aspects of the current experience, not to attempt to rigidly stay in the present (which is not humanly possible anyway). By contacting the present moment, we become aware of possibilities provided by the event beyond the



lens of our troubled mind. We allow ourselves the chance to experience “the good stuff” such as vitality, joy, and authentic connection along with the painful thoughts and feelings in our head. We contact the present by noticing our breathing, feelings, actions, thoughts and so on. Inability to contact the present moment, because of RFT, means being stuck or trapped in our minds and losing out on the possibilities the present moment affords.

2. Acceptance is the ability to experience and accept the present event without trying to change or control its form or content (Luoma et al., 2017; Westrup & Wright, 2017). This means not trying to escape, avoid or eliminate thoughts, feelings, and bodily sensations as they come. As explained before, RFT predisposes us to engage in avoidance when difficult thoughts or feelings arise. We learn to judge experiences as good or bad from a young age, what is or is not acceptable, or what should or shouldn't be, all at the courtesy of language. When we go down the avoidance path, we usually end up stuck with the experience we futilely try to avoid, like our own shadow stuck to our own figure (i.e., rarely can we escape language). We beat ourselves up at our failed attempt to get rid of the discomfort, thinking something is wrong and we need to try harder.

3. Cognitive defusion is the ability to “defuse” ourselves from our thoughts (Luoma et al., 2017; Westrup & Wright, 2017). This is a profound shift in perspective. Cognitive defusion requires us to see our thoughts for what they are (i.e., just thoughts we produce from our heads) and not the literal, objective truth of the world. In this sense, we are looking at thoughts from a different context, and not attempting to change the thoughts (we can't truly change them anyway according to RFT). The context now is that we are looking at a thought rather than from a thought. We dispassionately see that a thought is just a thought, a word is just a word. For instance, it is not “I am a failure,” but it is “I am having a thought that I am a failure.” And if our thoughts are not literal truths, we have more behavioral choices to choose from for we no longer have to act according to the “truth” of the mind. Inherent in this explanation

and as mentioned in a prior section, being fused to our thoughts (i.e., cognitive fusion) makes us lose contact with the present moment and its possibilities.

4. Self-as-context is the ability to notice a separation between the self and the events that unfold (Luoma et al., 2017; Westrup & Wright, 2017). The self is the “Noticer” of all the thoughts, feelings, and sensations that one experiences. And as these thoughts, feelings, and sensations come and go, the self is always stable. The self has unwaveringly existed through time and experience. The self is a continuous “I” or “Noticer” across events, larger than all the experiences. When a person develops self-as-context, they know that although they contain all the events that they have experienced, they are still distinct from these events. Another analogy that captures self-as-context is the “Experiencer” and the “Experiences”. There is a sense of self-transcendence, as we transcend above the experiences, freeing ourselves from having to battle with them. Westrup & Wright (2017) also explain two other ways of experiencing the self that are worth mentioning here: the conceptualized self and the self-as-process. The conceptualized self is the self-identity we construct via language (e.g., girl, smart, clumsy). Having conceptualized selves is not bad per se – as in the tradition of ACT, it is a matter of whether something is workable. When we rigidly fuse the self with a conceptualized self and treat that as literal truth (e.g., I am not enough OR I am smart), we typically hold ourselves up against cognitive rules that are “untrue” and difficult, if not, impossible to uphold. Thus, it is more adaptive for us to see our conceptualized selves as constructed identities, and to hold them in a more flexible and workable way. Self-as-process is more clearly inherent in self-as-context; it is noticing the processes taking place (e.g., noticing our fear, noticing our fused thoughts).

5. Values or defining valued directions is the ability to choose values that give life meaning (Luoma et al., 2017; Westrup & Wright, 2017). Once we know that our thoughts and feelings are not literal truths and we do not have to behave in their service, we might be left wondering how to behave. We turn to look at our deeply held values or what gives our life meaning. Values are chosen qualities that can never be obtained (Luoma et al., 2017). They are choices a person makes about who they want to

be, how they want to live their life. Values are extremely vital to ACT. The workability of a certain behavior or the person's "truth," depends on their values. Recall the review of functional contextualism: when we ask what is workable, we are essentially asking, "is this thought or feeling in the service of our values?" If the answer is no, the therapist's task is to assist the client in accepting these uncomfortable thoughts/feelings and moving toward their valued life direction, whilst having these thoughts/feelings anyway. In helping the person realize their values, therapists leverage the same RFT principles to draw on and strengthen relations in service of the person's values (Luoma et al., 2017; Westrup & Wright, 2017). For instance, if a client struggles with thinking they have been a "bad dad," it also entails that the client knows what a "good dad" looks like (Westrup & Wright, 2017). Therefore, the therapist can help the client articulate what being a good dad looks like and identify the behaviors required to get the client closer to that valued direction. With clearly defined values, one is able to assess whether a certain action is moving them closer to or farther away from the life they want to live and in moving toward the life they want, they are able to access the intrinsic rewards of their behavior. It goes without saying that a lack of chosen values or clarity about values means that one is without anchor or guidance; living a truly meaningful life becomes difficult or even impossible with no values.

6. Committed action is the ability to build patterns of behavior that are aligned with one's chosen values (Luoma et al., 2017). Commitment is akin to being on a mission. Therefore, committed action requires the person to adopt the mission of leading a values-based life, a life of working on meaningful goals, so much so that this "working on" becomes a habit. What is important in committed action is planning out concrete goals and knowing that slips and falls may occur in the process of carrying out our life's mission. Unlike values which are unattainable, goals can be set, achieved, ticked off and set again. It requires tremendous effort to build patterns of values-congruent behavior that involve slips and falls and getting back up as part of our committed action. In ACT, as long as we are moving toward our values and working on

our goals, an inch or a mile is still recognized as a meaningful step, bringing us closer to a meaningful life (Westrup & Wright, 2017).

As presented in Figure 1, the six core processes are grouped into two umbrella processes: (1) Mindfulness and acceptance processes and (2) Commitment and behavior change processes. Acceptance, Cognitive defusion, Contacting the present, and Self-as-context belong to the Mindfulness umbrella, while Values, Committed action, Contacting the present, and Self-as-context belong to the Behavior change umbrella (Contacting the present and Self-as-context belong to both umbrella processes.)

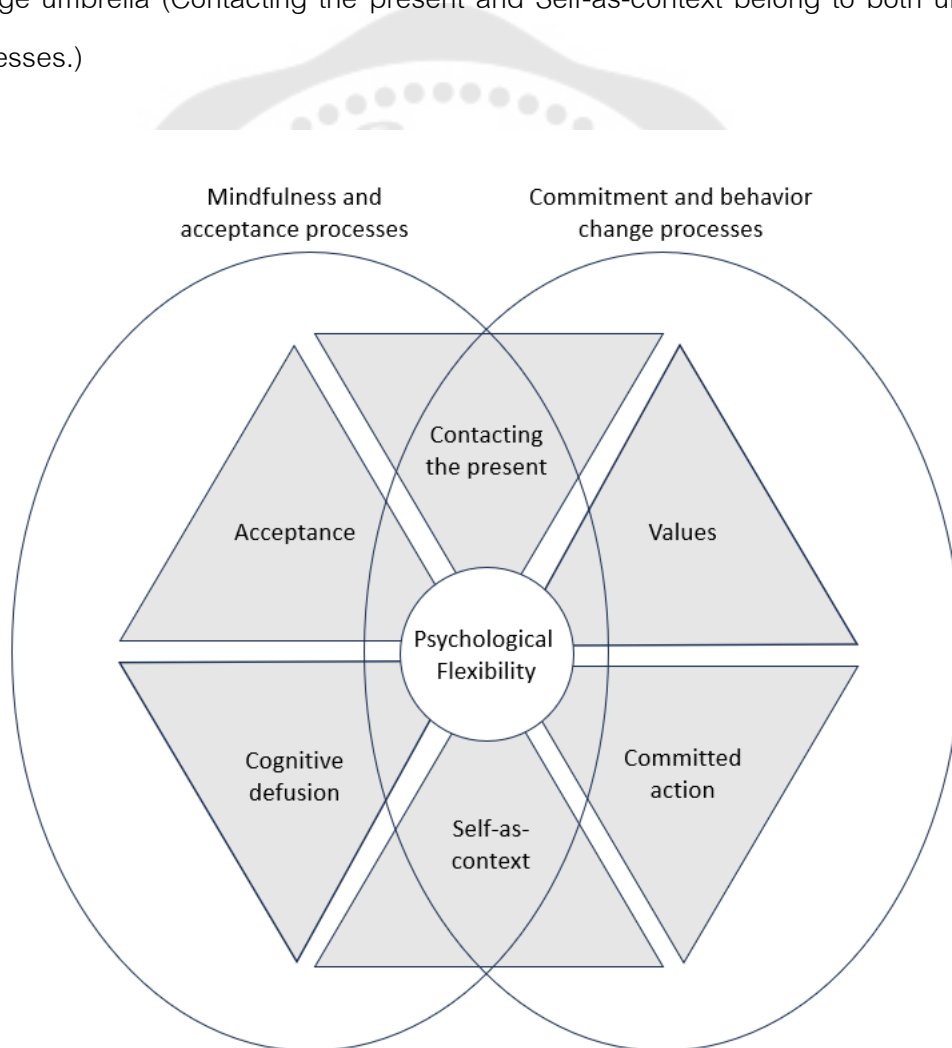


Figure 1 The ACT hexagon model of psychological flexibility

### 2.2.7. Implementing ACT

#### Advantages of group ACT

According to ACT founder, Steven Hayes, the scientific literature underpinning ACT is mainly built on group methods and processes (Westrup & Wright, 2017). Empirically, an extensive review of ACT studies from 1986 to 2014 reported that of 144 studies, 51% was conducted in group format, 28% individual, 13% tech-based, 4% mixed group & individual, and 4% in self-help format (Hooper & Larsson, 2015). ACT practitioners describe ACT in a group setting as “ACT on steroids” (Westrup & Wright, 2017, p. 1). When applied in group format, ACT amplifies the therapeutic change mechanisms of group therapy. For instance, ACT views therapist and clients as equals, as humans going through the same struggle of “languaging” (e.g., cognitive fusion) or being stuck in varying degrees. As such, the compassion and authenticity born from this basis help optimize the therapeutic relationship in group work. Moreover, in group ACT, every member’s experience is a learning opportunity for all regardless of content. It may be difficult to detect cognitive defusion in oneself. In seeing the defusion in others, members can apply the learning to themselves. Additionally, there are endless opportunities for social support and compassion in group ACT. Everyone is working on being human, connecting over this shared struggle of being human and going through the same human difficulties. Another key offering of group ACT is the strong role of constructive feedback. Members are encouraged to articulate their experiences and how they experience each other. Even the therapist themselves can model the process and “disclose” their experience in group ACT. Thus, based on the powerful impact of group ACT, this research study conducted its ACT intervention in a group format. Reviews, henceforth, focus largely on ACT in a group setting.

#### Stages and design of group ACT

ACT application can be divided into three main behavioral pillars: (1) open, (2) centered, and (3) engaged (Westrup & Wright, 2017). Each pillar houses 2 core processes of psychological flexibility that are often paired together in ACT intervention programs. The “open” pillar houses the processes of acceptance and

cognitive defusion. The “centered” pillar houses the processes of contacting the present and self-as-context. The “engaged” pillar houses the processes of values and committed action. Arranging an ACT program in such sequential fashion is one way of administering group ACT. Because ACT does not follow a manualized protocol, there is a lot of flexibility for the therapist to design their own intervention using the core processes (Harris, 2006). As a generic reference, a review of ACT research found that ACT outcome studies across all formats and target outcomes ranged between 1 hour to 50 hours in total therapy duration, averaging at 11 hours in total (Hooper & Larsson, 2015). No average group size was reported. To provide reference, the American Psychological Association (APA) (2019) states that for group interventions in general, group size typically ranges from 5-15 members. Westrup and Wright (2017) demonstrate an example group ACT consisting of 12 sessions across 12 weeks with each session running for 90 minutes per week, employing at least 1-2 experiential exercises per session. The example follows the common sequential approach mentioned above (i.e., parsed into 3 pillars with processes sectioned into pairs). A typical group ACT intervention will begin its first session with introductions and house-keeping activities such as informed consent, group logistics, confidentiality, and participation expectations (Westrup & Wright, 2017). The group then works through the six core processes starting from acceptance and cognitive defusion through to contacting the present, self-as-context, values, and committed action. During these core sessions, the therapist keeps in mind that what actually unfolds in session should take precedence over the planned agenda. The final session(s) pulls all the processes and learning together and ends with the therapist sharing appreciation for the group and group members sharing final thoughts with the group.

#### **Techniques, skills, and exercises in group ACT**

ACT employs a combination of psychoeducation, direct experience, and outside session work to build psychological flexibility among group members (Westrup & Wright, 2017). These techniques, skills, and exercises aim to help members cultivate the 6 core processes or abilities in order to move from unworkable behaviors to

value-based behaviors that bring them closer to who they want to be and how they want to live.

1. Psychoeducation: The ironic part of ACT is that it utilizes the same process that keeps humans “stuck” in the first place to get them “unstuck” and living meaningfully (Westrup & Wright, 2017). This is the process of languaging. The therapist tries to explicitly undermine language processes that are “unworkable” and strengthen language processes that are conducive to growth and flexibility. Group ACT relies on psychoeducation to introduce new ideas, emphasize learning, and elicit and reinforce workable behaviors. When members are able to digest key processes at an intellectual level, it becomes easier for them to move toward growth. Much of this growth, however, results from experiential learning or direct experience in session.

2. Direct experience: Direct experience refers to non-verbal learning and experiencing (Westrup & Wright, 2017). This can be done through planned experiential exercises or naturally through processes unfolding in the session. Although direct experience activities have some component of languaging, the key is the felt experience of engaging in the activities. The 4 elements of direct experience are as follows: (1) Contacting the present: With or without awareness, humans are always engaged in experiential learning at any moment. Thus, this represents a gold mine for the therapist to draw into attention whatever processes are going on in the group. A key benefit of contacting the present is that members can have greater access to the information available in the moment. For instance, a member experiencing panic may be guided to notice that they are actually physically safe. Another advantage of present moment awareness is being less influenced by what is going on in the mind. The same member experiencing panic may realize that they may engage in other actions aside from escaping. (2) In-the-moment interventions: When something happens in the group that illustrates an ACT concept, the therapist may bring the group’s attention to that in-the-moment experience. This can be done with a discussion or an experiential exercise that the therapist can pull out from their treasure trove of exercises. (3) Experiential exercises: These are therapist-led activities that focus on demonstrating one or more



ACT processes. One example is the Leaves on a Stream guided imagery that helps members practice cognitive defusion. This exercise requires members to envision themselves sitting beside a gently flowing stream with leaves floating along the water's surface. Members are guided to place their thoughts and feelings on these leaves and simply observe. (4) Modeling: Another way to help members learn is by observation. The therapist may model an ACT process themselves or they may acknowledge a process being modeled by a member in the group. In the former approach, the therapist may illuminate the process of contacting the present by sharing or disclosing how they are experiencing the group. In the latter approach, the therapist may reinforce a member for using intentional language that displays cognitive defusion.

3. Growth outside session: ACT firmly believes in the continued learning that occurs outside group sessions (Westrup & Wright, 2017). This can be facilitated in 3 ways: (1) Homework: ACT therapists often assign homework or what they refer to as "practice" or "committed actions." This is to help build skills in between sessions (e.g., practice mindfulness for x minutes a day) or to prep for the upcoming session (e.g., complete a values worksheet). (2) Translation: A very effective tool in ACT is translating what members are already doing effectively in their lives that are the processes or abilities of ACT. This may be simply asking how many members wanted to sleep in and then pointing out how they got out of bed, nonetheless. This is one way in which they are employing committed action. Alternatively, to help members see their deficits, the therapist may ask members to identify the ways they attempt to avoid unwanted thoughts or feelings during the week or to practice defusion skills, the therapist may task members to notice their thoughts throughout the day. (3) Committed actions: In engaging in their own committed actions, members are able to not only support each other's growth but also learn how certain processes in another member's life play out in their own experiences.

### **2.3. Research studies on ACT**

#### **ACT intervention studies on MIL**



There is tremendous research on ACT, with at least 20 meta-analyses spanning over 2 decades (1986-2018) reviewing a total of 133 studies on 12,477 participants (Gloster et al., 2020). The extensive review verifies ACT as a transdiagnostic intervention, noting favorable outcomes in areas of depression, anxiety, substance use, chronic pain, psychosis, stress, somatic complaints, physical conditions, quality of life, and more. The fact that ACT has shown positive results across vast conditions is not surprising, as ACT is based on universal principles of human behavior (i.e., RFT) (Westrup & Wright, 2017).

Despite ACT's wide application and impact, a review of various meta-analyses was unable to identify intervention studies involving ACT, group or individual, with MIL as a target outcome (e.g., Mindfulness meta-analysis by Chu & Mak, 2020; Review of ACT meta-analyses by Gloster et al., 2020; MIL meta-analysis by Manco & Hamby, 2021).

Through parsing of single research studies, the researcher found an Iranian study using Group ACT on MIL among patients with depression (Khorani et al., 2020). Based on the abstract provided in English, the sample included 40 depressed patients of which 20 were randomly assigned to the experimental group and the other 20 to the control group. The experimental group underwent 8 sessions of ACT. The study reported that ACT was effective in increasing MIL using the MLQ. As the remainder of the article was written in Persian, the researcher could not review additional information, such as the intervention format and content. The positive result aligns with that of a doctoral dissertation using Group ACT-based psychoeducation on MIL among university students in Turkey (Seyrek & Ersanli, 2021). The sample included 36 students (average age of 20) evenly distributed into 2 experimental groups and 2 control groups (i.e., 9 students each). The control group did not receive any treatment. The program ran for 8 sessions (duration unspecified) across 8 weeks, with session 1 focusing on values, sessions 2-3 on contacting the present, sessions 4-5 on cognitive defusion and self-as-context, session 6 on acceptance, and sessions 7-8 on committed action. It should be noted that although this study seems directly relevant to this paper's

research topic, it is a psychoeducational program and not strictly ACT. Nevertheless, presence of MIL increased significantly, as measured by the MLQ. Recalling the review of MIL instruments, the MLQ (used in both studies) provides a lumped score and includes items using variations of the term “meaning,” leaving the meaning of MIL up to each person’s interpretation. It, however, includes 5 out of 10 items explicitly mentioning purpose (Steger et al., 2006). Thus, one may infer that ACT in the two studies was effective in engendering MIL generally and most likely in engendering the specific purpose subconstruct as well. Both findings are further supported by a qualitative master’s thesis which concluded ACT to be helpful in alleviating existential anxiety like death anxiety and lack of MIL (Wilms, 2016). The researcher conducted semi-structured interviews with 10 ACT therapists based either in the Netherlands or Belgium, exploring how these therapists deal with issues of death anxiety and MIL. Interview results indicated that nearly all therapists had experience working with clients with such issues. Therapist strategies were subsumed under 7 thematic categories: (1) Defusion and distancing from thoughts, (2) Exploring the client’s meaning-making, (3) Paying particular attention to the experience, (4) Exploring values, (5) Emphasizing living according to values, (6) Displaying therapeutic attitudes, and (7) Miscellaneous. The researcher recognized acceptance as the overarching aim targeted by these different strategies. The three studies illustrate the preliminary effectiveness of ACT on MIL as a whole and at least on the purpose subconstruct.

Regarding the impact of ACT on coherence, there are studies on a closely related construct of sense of coherence (SOC) which can provide inferential insight. Briefly, SOC is a construct developed by Antonovsky (Eriksson & Mittelmark, 2017). It has three domains, one of which is most closely related to coherence – the domain of comprehensibility, defined as the extent to which one understands internal and external stimuli as rational, orderly, coherent, clear, and structured. One Iranian study explored the use of ACT on the SOC in patients with multiple sclerosis (Younesi et al., 2020). 30 patients (between the ages of 20-55) were evenly divided into the experimental group (n=15) and the control group (n=15) which received no intervention.

The group ACT program consisted of a weekly 90-minute session across 8 weeks, totaling 8 sessions. Findings indicated that ACT effectively enhanced SOC, with the researchers largely attributing such finding to ACT's mechanism of acceptance. This is substantiated by results from another Iranian study exploring the use of ACT on SOC in patients with chronic low back pain (Jenaabadi & Hosseini, 2020). Similarly, from 30 patients (between the ages of 18-50), 15 were allocated to the experimental group to receive ACT and the other 15 to the wait-list control group to receive ACT post study. The group ACT program ran for 8 sessions over 8 weeks and each session lasted 75 minutes. ACT significantly increased the SOC score in the experimental group. The authors explained this as the potential outcome of the committed action process which frees patients from struggling with negative thoughts and feelings by staying focused and committed to their valued goals. Thus, findings on this closely associated construct of SOC suggest that ACT should likely be effective in enhancing the coherence dimension of MIL.

In terms of significance, an ACT study within suicide research may shed some light on the potential impact of ACT on this third MIL subconstruct. Decreased suicide risk can be an indirect implication of significance, as it connotes a life worth living. One French study explored the use of ACT on adult outpatients suffering from current suicidal behavior disorder (Ducasse et al., 2018). Of a sample of 40 patients (average age of 38), 21 were randomized into the ACT experimental group and 19 into the relaxation control group. The experimental group received 7 weekly sessions of group ACT, each lasting 2 hours. 2 therapists were assigned to each group. The ACT group yielded a higher rate of change in reduced suicidal ideation than the relaxation control group. ACT's effectiveness in improving one's significance can be further supported by self-esteem research. Self-esteem, as reviewed in Terror Management Theory, is a closely related construct of significance. An Iranian study found ACT to be effective in improving the self-esteem of women with polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS) (Moradi et al., 2020). 52 women (between the ages of 18-45) were randomly assigned into the experimental group (n=26) and the control group (n=26). The group ACT

program contained 8 weekly sessions and each session ran for 90 minutes. The control group received treatment as usual which included regular physician visits and medication. The positive result of ACT on self-esteem is replicated in another Iranian study on women post-divorce (Saadati et al., 2017). The study randomly assigned 36 women into the ACT group, the compassion-focused therapy group, and the control group. The group ACT program included 8 weekly 90-minute sessions. All three studies reviewed here (1 on suicidal risk, 2 on self-esteem) are indirect indicators of significance. Thus, it can be said that based on these findings, ACT should likely have a positive effect on the significance facet of MIL.

The 7 group ACT studies reviewed are tabulated and presented in Table 5. The average sample size of the studies is 36 participants, with an average of 18 participants each in the experimental group and the control group. Only one study specified the number of members per group at 9 members. The average number of sessions is 8 sessions, with each session averaging at 93 minutes.

In summary, direct ACT on purpose studies illustrate that ACT has been used effectively on the purpose subconstruct of MIL. With regard to coherence and significance, studies on closely related constructs, namely sense of coherence for the former and suicidal ideation and self-esteem for the latter, indicate that ACT should likely be effective on these 2 dimensions of MIL as well. At the very least, research studies (particularly those on purpose and general meaning) confirm that practitioners are indeed using ACT on MIL even if, at present, limited intervention studies have been conducted to strengthen existing results and measure MIL as a tripartite construct. As evident in the review, even more limited is the study of ACT on MIL among first-year university students. Most studies are of wide-adult age range and/or clinical-disease samples.

Table 5 Research studies of group ACT on MIL construct, subconstructs and/or related subconstructs

| Study                        | Exp. Treatment                  | Control treatment  | Target variable    | Sample   | Total sample | Exp. group | Control group | Members per group | No. of sessions | Session length (mins) | Hedges' $g^{**}$ |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--|--------------|------------|---------------|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| (Khorani et al., 2020)       | Group ACT                       | N/A                | MIL (with purpose) | Patients with depression                       | 40           | 20         | 20            | N/A*              | 8               | N/A*                  | N/A*             |
| (Seyrek & Ersanli, 2021)     | Group ACT-based psychoeducation | Waitlist           | MIL (with purpose) | University students                            | 36           | 18         | 18            | 9                 | 8               | N/A*                  | 0.05             |
| (Younesi et al., 2020)       | Group ACT                       | Waitlist           | Sense of coherence | Patients with multiple sclerosis               | 30           | 15         | 15            | N/A*              | 8               | 90                    | 1.58             |
| (Jenaabadi & Hosseini, 2020) | Group ACT                       | Waitlist           | Sense of coherence | Patients with chronic low back pain            | 30           | 15         | 15            | N/A*              | 8               | 75                    | 0.49             |
| (Ducasse et al., 2018)       | Group ACT                       | Relaxation         | Suicidal ideation  | Adult patients with suicidal behavior disorder | 40           | 21         | 19            | N/A*              | 7               | 120                   | N/A*             |
| (Moradi et al., 2020)        | Group ACT                       | Treatment as usual | Self-esteem        | Women with polycystic ovary syndrome           | 52           | 26         | 26            | N/A*              | 8               | 90                    | 0.56             |
| (Saadati et al., 2017)       | Group ACT                       | N/A                | Self-esteem        | Women post-divorce                             | 24           | 12         | 12            | N/A*              | 8               | 90                    | N/A*             |
|                              |                                 |                    |                    | <b>Average</b>                                 | <b>36</b>    | <b>18</b>  | <b>18</b>     | <b>9</b>          | <b>8</b>        | <b>93</b>             |                  |

\*N/A stands for not available, meaning data is either incomprehensible (written in foreign language) or not provided; \*\*Hedges'  $g$  was calculated by the researcher from available data.

### **Group ACT intervention for this study**

As the review could not identify any group ACT on MIL study done among university students, the study with the most effective outcome based on the highest Hedges'  $g$  value was selected as the reference program for this research. This is Younesi et al.'s (2020) study with a Hedges'  $g$  value of 1.58. The researcher designed an 8-session group ACT program based on Westrup and Wright's (2017) training manual and the ACT protocol used in Younesi et al.'s (2020) study. Each session ran for 90 minutes and all 8 sessions were conducted over 6 weeks. To meet the buffered sample size of 20 participants (see chapter 3), each group had 10 participants. The program was designed to focus on the MIL construct and the first-year Thai university student context and was administered in online format. The intervention session outline can be found in chapter 3.

## **3. First-year university students**

### **3.1. Theories related to first-year university students**

The first year of university marks a big transition for many adolescents. Theoretically, it signals the beginning of a new period of development for many. This period is known as emerging adulthood (EA) (Arnett, 2000, 2007, 2015). Emerging adulthood is the life stage between adolescence and young adulthood that typically exists in industrialized societies. Conservatively, this period spans the ages 18-25, but for even more highly educated urban populations, this period could extend till age 29. It is a key turning point in the life span when individuals are no longer adolescents but also not entirely adults – they are partially free from strict parental control and, at the same time, from enduring young adult roles such as stable work, marriage, and parenthood. As such, a lot of exploration occurs in this “in-between” status. Amid this period of heightened self-focus, instability, and possibilities, emerging adults spend a lot of time contemplating who they are and what they want from life. This aligns with Erikson's (Erikson, 1963) seminal theory of human development across the lifespan which originally attributed such challenges to both adolescence and young adulthood, stages



which respectively precede and follow Arnett's (2000, 2007, 2015) emerging adulthood. Nevertheless, Erikson (1968) noted a period of prolonged adolescence or psychosocial moratorium, a developmental delay during which young adults go through extensive experimentation typical of adolescents – the foundation of Arnett's (2000, 2007, 2015) emerging adulthood. According to the Reflective Judgment model (Kitchener & King, 1981), these are the golden years during which many aspects of reflective thinking typically develop and become cognitively complex over time (King & Kitchener, 2014). There is a shift from authority-driven judgment toward more abstract thinking, where judgment is made upon the person's own choice of evidence. Understandably, many emerging adults find themselves choosing a field of study only to realize down the road that the field is no longer what they wanted (Arnett, 2015). They may think about switching majors or even university. Love relationships and social life can also become difficult to manage. The time is rife with decisions and difficulties for university students. For those from less privileged backgrounds, the period presents an opportunity for them to change their life scripts.

### **3.2. Research studies on first-year university students**

As the theory contends, transitioning into university is no easy task. A study conducted on 50 first year and 50 final year university students in India found significantly different adjustment and emotional maturity levels between the 2 samples (Sharma, 2012). First year students reported poorer scores than their senior counterparts in areas of social adjustment (i.e., acquiring new friends), heightened emotional stability (i.e., anxiety), and academic difficulty. Focusing on the first-year sample, 56%, 52%, and 72% of first-year students yielded low scores in social, emotional, and academic adjustment, respectively. The author attributed poor social adjustment to leaving a school environment of familiar faces they have known for 8-10 years to a new scene that requires making new friends. Heightened emotional stability was attributed to anxiety related to new surroundings and college life. Lastly, academic difficulty was attributed to changing demands and teaching styles. Additional results from the unstructured interview in the study found that many 1<sup>st</sup>-years have difficulty

getting along with students from different backgrounds, think they have selected the wrong course of study, and feel lost not knowing whom to trust among other concerns. Another study conducted in Ethiopia found similar results (Ababu et al., 2018). Of a sample of 537 first year university students, 42% reported having an overall adjustment problem. 19% had an institutional adjustment problem, 18% had academic adjustment and personal-emotional adjustment problems, and 8% had a social adjustment problem. Although the percentages are much lower than those of Sharma's (2012) study they are, nevertheless, a significant portion of students. The main factors related to poor adjustment are homesickness, difficulty socializing and making friends, and difficulty managing time and study skill. These results are corroborated by findings of a study on first-year university students from Srinakharinwirot University in Thailand (Chantarasena et al., 2013) which reported that students experienced moderate stress levels in the areas of learning management, study skills, learning environment, and relationship with classmates. What is already a challenging time for transitioning students becomes much harder during the Covid-19 pandemic. A study on the effects of Covid-19 on students' mental health in the United States conducted interview surveys with 195 students (average age of 21; 12% were first-year students) (Son et al., 2020). 71% of students reported increased anxiety and stress. The top 5 themes from the qualitative analysis were concerns regarding own health and that of loved ones (91%), difficulty concentrating (89%), disrupted sleeping habits (86%), poorer social relations or social isolation (86%), and issues with academic performance (82%). These results are consistent with those reported by two Thai studies exploring the impact of online-learning during Covid-19. Imsa-ard (2020) found that among 310 students (20% were first-years), majority felt online learning did not enhance learning (71%), stifled communication between instructors and students (81%), provided an environment for easy distraction (81%), and made them feel demotivated (71%) among other issues. The author attributed demotivation to social isolation inherent in online learning. In a similar vein, Chimwong (2021) reported that the 181 students (25% were first-years) in the study experienced overall high anxiety from online learning and high anxiety in specific



areas such as concentration and demotivation. Regarding Covid-19 concerns specifically, students were highly anxious about their own health and their uncertain future, among other factors.

Data concerning the MIL level of first-year students in Thailand are limited, not to mention data specific to Srinakharinwirot University in Bangkok, Thailand, a university at the heart of urban Bangkok that aligns with Arnett's (2000, 2007, 2015) conceptualization of emerging adulthood in modern societies. A study of 427 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> year students from Chulalongkorn University, a comparable university located in urban Bangkok, found that there are more students with high MIL than there are students with low MIL (Pongsayaporn & Laurujisawat, 2019). Another study of 917 students from Rajabhat University located in 5 major provinces across Thailand found that, overall, students had a high average MIL score (Sangaroon, 2019). Nevertheless, the data, broken down, showed that at least 44% of students in the sample had low MIL, with at least 32% of students reporting very low MIL and at least 11% reporting low MIL. Although this study is not of a university population located in urban Bangkok, its finding is still relevant as pursuing higher education is a marker of industrialized cultures, albeit big or small (Arnett, 2000, 2007). While evidence suggests that Thai university students generally have high MIL, it is still beneficial to strengthen the MIL of these students and even more important to ensure students with low MIL are not overlooked and are guided to achieve the high MIL typical of their peers.

In summary, research shows that not only is transitioning into university a challenge in its own conventional way (i.e., peppered with adjustment issues), but the current Covid-19 climate and its online-learning requirement have also made university time a much more difficult experience, intensifying what first-year university students already have to face. Although research suggests that students with low MIL are a minority, this minority population is just as important and must not be neglected. Bolstered MIL is crucial to the prevention of mental illnesses that may arise during difficult times.

#### 4. Research framework

This research aimed to study the effects of ACT on MIL among first-year university students. The group-ACT intervention, designed based on Westrup & Wright's (2017) training manual and Younesi et al.'s (2020) study, was expected to increase the level of MIL. The research framework is presented in Figure 2.



Figure 2 Research framework

#### 5. Research hypotheses

Anticipating that the 6 core processes underlying ACT will trigger a sense of meaningfulness, the research study proposed the following hypotheses.

1. The first-year university students who participated in ACT had higher scores on MIL than before participating in ACT.
2. The first-year university students who participated in ACT had higher scores on MIL than those in the control group who did not participate in ACT.

## Chapter 3

### Research Methodology

The research methodology is divided into the following sections:

1. Research design
2. Population and sample
3. Instrumentation
4. Data collection
5. Data analysis
6. Ethical considerations in research

#### 1. Research design

The study's design was a pre-test post-test quasi-experiment with a control group (see Table 6). Participants were partially randomly assigned into the experimental group (E) and the control group (C). Both groups completed the pre-test (T<sub>1</sub>). Then, the experimental group received treatment (X) which is the ACT intervention, whilst the control group was waitlisted and therefore received no treatment (-). Both groups completed the post-test (T<sub>2</sub>). (The control group received individual counseling shortly after the study.)

Table 6 Quasi-experimental design

| Treatment group | Pre-test       | Treatment | Post-test      |
|-----------------|----------------|-----------|----------------|
| E               | T <sub>1</sub> | X         | T <sub>2</sub> |
| C               | T <sub>1</sub> | -         | T <sub>2</sub> |

E represents experimental group. C represents control group. T represents pre-test (T<sub>1</sub>) and post-test (T<sub>2</sub>). X represents treatment which is the ACT intervention

## 2. Population and sample

### Population

The study's population is first-year university students with low MIL from all faculties of Srinakharinwirot University located in Bangkok, Thailand.

### Sample

Through voluntary response sampling and application of the inclusion/exclusion criteria, the study drew 20 participants from first-year students with low MIL at Srinakharinwirot University. Then via partial random assignment based on availability, 10 students were allocated to the experimental group and 10 students to the control group. The maximum number of participants in any one group during the intervention was 10 participants (see Table 7).

Table 7 Participant grouping

| Experimental Group - ACT (n) | Control Group - Waitlist (n) | Total (n) |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------|
| 10                           | 10                           | 20        |

The sample size was calculated using the G\*Power 3.1.9.7 for Windows software (see Figure 3). The software yielded a sample size of 16, so the total sample size of 20 includes a buffer of 4 participants in case of unexpected dropouts.

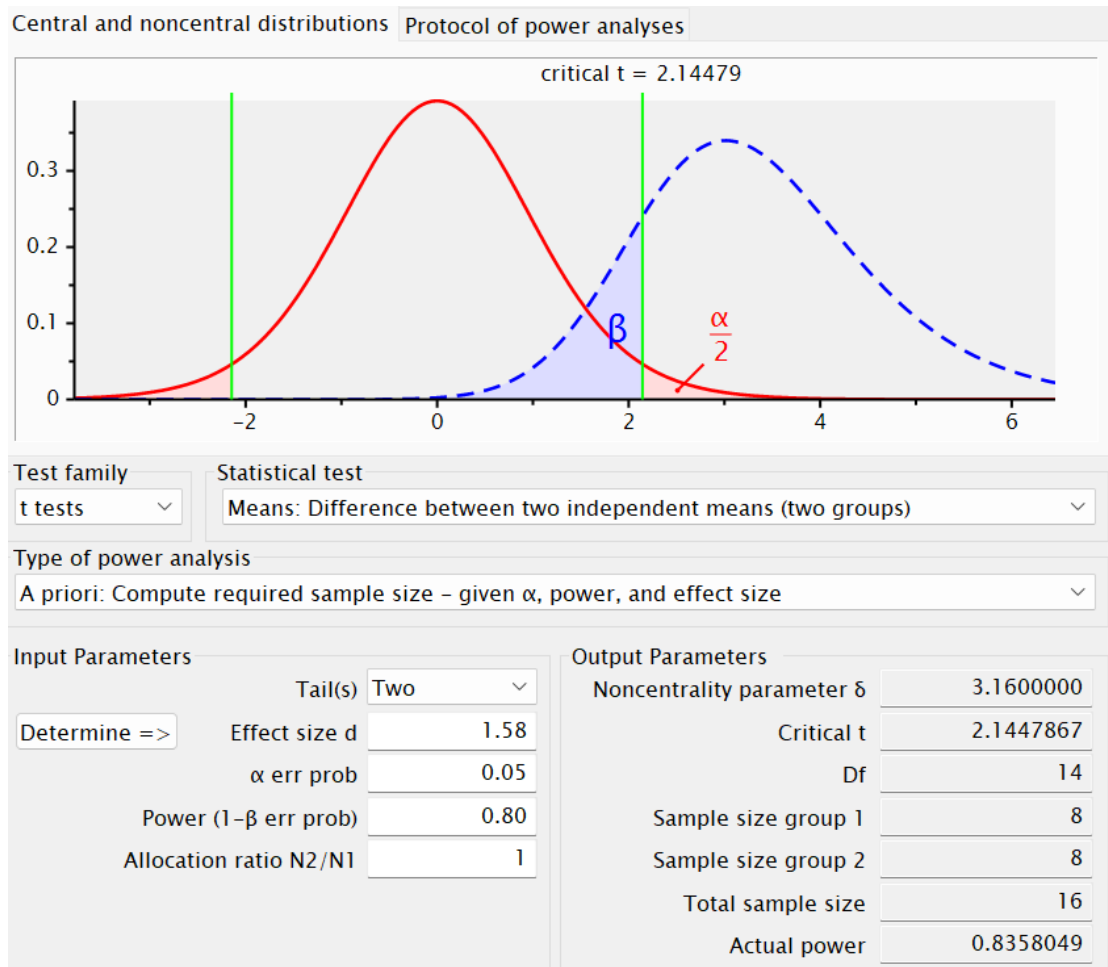


Figure 3 Sample size calculation on G\*Power

Participants were selected using the following inclusion criteria. (1) Students must be first-year students currently attending university, (2) Participation is voluntary, (3) Students must have low MIL (score below the 60<sup>th</sup> percentile) measured by the TMLS, and (4) Students must be able to attend all group counseling sessions for the duration of the study.

Figure 4 illustrates the participant flow diagram. Participants were screened according to the inclusion/exclusion criteria; A total of 38 students completed the pre-test, of which 4 students were excluded, as they were not first-year university students and 1 student was excluded, as they could not be contacted. The remaining 33 students were sorted from having the lowest to the highest MIL score, after which the 60<sup>th</sup>

percentile score was calculated (score of 125) and 20 students below the 60<sup>th</sup> percentile with the lowest MIL scores were selected as final participants. The final 20 participants were evenly split via partial random assignment based on availability into the ACT intervention group and the waitlist group. Each group took the post-test and data were analyzed.

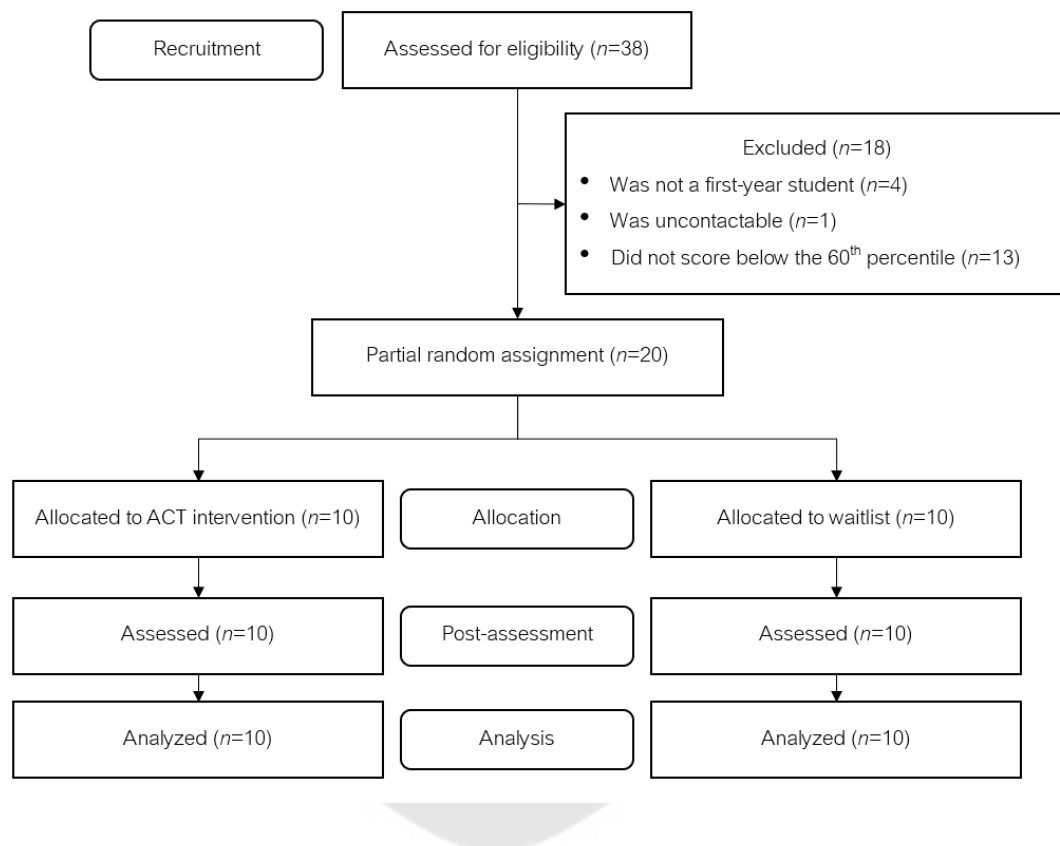


Figure 4 Participant flow diagram

### 3. Instrumentation

#### MIL questionnaire

The researcher designed the study's MIL questionnaire, the Tripartite Meaning in Life Scale (TMLS) (Haputpong & Dudsdeemaytha, 2023), in the Thai language according to the steps below:

1. The researcher conducted a literature review of theories and research studies from books and scholarly journal articles and existing MIL instruments. In

creating the items, the researcher referred to the contemporary tripartite MIL definitions, drawing mainly from Martela & Steger's (2016) definition, and the theories reviewed, ensuring that the coherence subconstruct adhered to the concepts derived from the Narrative Identity Theory (McAdams & Cox, 2010) and The Meaning Maintenance Model (Heine et al., 2006), purpose adhered to the Self-Regulation Model (Carver & Scheier, 1998), and significance adhered to the Terror Management Theory (Greenberg et al., 1986) and the tangible views of Hill (2018), King and Hicks (2021), and Frankl (2006). After reviewing the existing MIL instruments, the researcher found that the CSMLT (Sangaroon, 2019), the MEMS (George & Park, 2016b), and the MMILS (Costin & Vignoles, 2019) were the most relevant instruments to this paper's tripartite MIL conceptualization. Hence, the questionnaire was designed based not only on the theories reviewed but also on the 3 scales, with some items adapted or synthesized and translated into the Thai language and some items originally constructed to fit the paper's MIL conceptualization. The developed scale has 3 MIL subscales, namely coherence, purpose, and significance, similar to the CSMLT, the MEMS, and the MMILS. Like the MEMS and the MMILS, the questionnaire follows a 7-point rating scale, indicating the extent the individual agrees or disagrees with the scale items from strongly disagree (1) to strongly agree (7). The researcher constructed the study's Thai questionnaire with 3 subscales and 8 items per subscale.

2. The questionnaire was reviewed by the thesis advisor and revised accordingly.

3. The revised questionnaire was assessed by 3 subject matter experts (SME) using the Index of Item-Objective Congruence (IOC) procedure. The IOC procedure assessed the content validity of the generated scale, identifying how well the scale comprehensively measures the MIL construct (i.e., whether the items fully represent all aspects of the MIL construct as reviewed in the research study). The IOC scores of the original 24-item TMLS were above .5 for all except for 2 items. According to standard practice, items with an average IOC score of .50-1.00 can be included in the scale (Rovinelli & Hambleton, 1976), while items with an average IOC score of below .50



either have to be revised or excluded. In-depth interviews with SME's resulted in the amendment of the 2 items and the fine-tuning of 12 additional items. All the original 24 items had final IOC scores that were above .5, indicating good content validity and thus, could be included in the scale. This aligns with the CSMLT (Sangaroon, 2019) which included items that had IOC scores above .5 and amended items that had IOC scores below .5. Table 14 in Appendix C displays the original 24-item TMLS IOC results.

4. Post-IOC, the TMLS was tried out with 30 first-year undergraduate students from a public university in Bangkok, Thailand with similar qualities to the study's sample.

5. Using a statistical software, the researcher analyzed the collected tryout data to compute the reliability of the TMLS. The original Corrected Item-Total Correlation (CITC) analysis yielded scores ranging from .212-.508, .094-.724, and .452-.718 for coherence, purpose, and significance, respectively. As 1 item in the purpose subscale had a coefficient of less than .2, the item was removed, reducing the TMLS to a 23-item scale. As a result, the CITC for purpose increased to .427-.729. The CITC coefficients for all final 23 items were above .2, suggesting that these items could be included in the scale. Likewise, the CSMLT included the 40 items with CITC greater than .2. Prior to the item removal, the overall Cronbach Alpha's coefficient was .884; post item removal, the score for the final 23 items increased to .892, indicating good internal consistency or reliability. This is a lower score than the CSMLT's .91 which indicates excellent internal consistency. Prior to the item removal, subconstruct Cronbach Alpha's coefficients were .632, .786, and .866 for coherence, purpose, and significance, respectively. Post item removal, the score for purpose increased to .841. The Cronbach's Alpha coefficient of .632 for the coherence subscale indicates acceptable internal consistency and the Cronbach's Alpha coefficients of .841 and .866 for the purpose and significance subscales, respectively, indicate good internal consistency. Although this is a favorable range, it is still lower than the Cronbach's Alpha ranges of the MEMS' .84-.90 (George & Park, 2016b) and the MMILS' .77-.92 (Costin & Vignoles, 2019). The results demonstrate that the final 23-item TMLS has favorable psychometric

properties and thus, could be used to measure MIL in this study. Table 15 in Appendix C displays the final 23-item TMLS and its reliability statistics.

6. The scale does not have a cut-off score, similar to Steger’s (2010) MLQ. Table 8 illustrates example items from the TMLS, translated from the original items in Thai to English.

**Instructions:** Using the scale, please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the following statements:

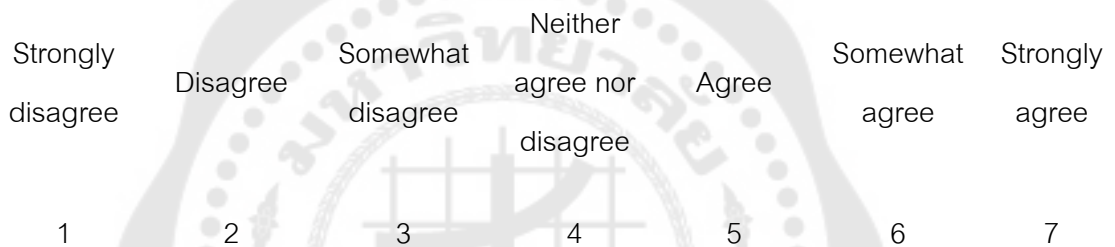


Table 8 Example items from the TMLS

| Items   | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| <b>Coherence</b>                              |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| I can accept the uncertainties in my life.    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| <b>Purpose</b>                                |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| I have goals in life that are of value to me. |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| <b>Significance</b>                           |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| I enjoy my daily life.                        |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |

**ACT group counseling for first-year university students with low MIL**

The researcher designed the study’s group ACT intervention in the Thai language according to the steps below:

1. The researcher reviewed literature on the administration of group ACT and took the Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT) – ACCREDITED CERT online

course, certified by the International Association of Therapists (IAOTH). This was to ensure the researcher's competence in designing and running the ACT program (See Figure 7 in Appendix B). In terms of general counseling background, the researcher is a Counseling Psychology master's student with over 300 hours of counseling experience.

2. The researcher designed the structure and core components of the ACT program based on Westrup & Wright's (2017) training manual and Younesi et al.'s (2020) study. The program was designed to have 8 online sessions with each session lasting 90 minutes, at a once-a-week frequency, totaling 12 hours across 8 weeks. This 8 90-minute session implementation structure aligns with the ACT interventions used in a study targeting Sense of Coherence (SOC) (Younesi et al., 2020) among patients with multiple sclerosis, and studies targeting self-esteem among women with polycystic ovary syndrome (Moradi et al., 2020) and women post-divorce (Saadati et al., 2017). SOC and self-esteem are closely related constructs of the MIL subconstructs of Coherence and Significance, respectively. Additionally, studies targeting Purpose-heavy MIL (measured by the MLQ), support the 8-session structure as reflected in the 8-session ACT administered to patients with depression (Khorani et al., 2020) and the 8-session ACT-based psychoeducation administered to university students (Seyrek & Eranli, 2021).

The program's content was developed based on the skills, techniques, and processes within ACT and the Relational Frame Theory underpinning ACT (Hayes, 2004). The program starts by laying the foundation with Session 1, Introduction and Creative hopelessness. It continues with Sessions 2 to 5, working on the concept of Control Agenda and the processes of Acceptance, Cognitive defusion, Contacting the present, and Self-as context, aimed to enhance Coherence. The final phase consisting of Sessions 6 to 8, works on the processes of Values and Committed action, aimed to enhance Significance and Purpose. The order of ACT processes in the program conforms to ACT's common sequential format and the conceptual pairing of the 6 processes into 3 behavioral pillars of Open, Centered, and Engaged, respectively. (Westrup & Wright, 2017).

The program's activities such as the "Ball in a pool" metaphor in Acceptance, the "Lemon" metaphor in Cognitive defusion, the "Observing self" activity in Self-as-context, the reflection on values in Values, and "Goal Setting" in Committed Action, can be found in Younesi's et al.'s (2020) ACT intervention which significantly increased SOC, with a large effect size. Some of these exercises, metaphors, worksheets, and/or homework were adapted or re-selected and translated to Thai to suit the MIL construct, first-year Thai university students, and the online format.

Table 9 tabulates the study's ACT program. (For the full program in Thai, please see Appendix F). The overall program details are as follows:

2.1 The 8-session ACT program aims to increase MIL in first-year university students. MIL has 3 components which are coherence, purpose, and significance.

2.2 Before the 8-session program, the counselor conducts a 45-minute preparatory meeting with all 10 members of the experimental group. At this point, the researcher has already set up a group chat on the LINE application with the 10 students to inform them of the objectives of and agree on a date for the preparatory meeting. During the meeting, the researcher shares a calendar for all members to view and agree on the dates and time for all 8 sessions.

2.3 The first session begins with Introduction (e.g., program objective, MIL psychoeducation, rule-setting) and Creative hopelessness. The goals of Introduction are to build rapport between the counselor and the students and between the students themselves, inform students of the key objectives, expectations, and benefits of ACT. The goals of Creative hopelessness are for students to explore the ways they have been managing their frustrations with first-year challenges, to understand how current control efforts do not work (control is hopeless) and to know that they can create new actions.

2.4 The second session introduces the Control agenda and works on the process of Acceptance. The Control agenda is a normative human process flowing from Creative hopelessness. The goal of the Control agenda is for students to see the

cost of controlling painful thoughts and emotions, whilst the goal for Acceptance is for acceptance of all experiences to be a functional alternative. This session is expected to target the coherence subconstruct of MIL.

2.5 The third session works on the process of Cognitive defusion. The goal is to encourage students to distance themselves from their painful thoughts and emotions without attempting to control, change, or avoid them. This session is expected to target the coherence subconstruct of MIL.

2.6 The fourth session works on the process of Contacting the present. The goal is to help students focus their attention on their internal and external experience in the present moment without any judgment, so that students can see the full picture and opportunities that exist in having more information. This session is expected to target the coherence subconstruct of MIL.

2.7 The fifth session works on the process of Self-as-context. The goal is for students to notice themselves as an observer that is separate from their experiences, an observer existing through time and space, experiencing internal and external events that come and go, so that students can see their difficulties in a new way. This session is expected to target the coherence subconstruct of MIL.

2.8 The sixth session works on the process of Values. The goal is to encourage students to identify core values that are meaningful to them. This session is expected to target the purpose and significance subconstructs of MIL.

2.9 The seventh session works on the process of Values and Committed action. The goals of Values are to further encourage students to identify core values that are meaningful to them and assist them to verify that their identified values are truly important to them and are different from goals. The goal of Committed action is to encourage students to start thinking about setting goals and actions that align with their core values. This session is expected to target the purpose and significance subconstructs of MIL.

2.10 The eighth session works on the process of Committed action and Termination. The goal of Committed action is to encourage students to set goals

and actions that align with their core values. The goals of Termination are for students to reflect on their experience and express how they feel about the group and each other. This session is expected to target the purpose and significance subconstructs of MIL.

In these sessions, exercises are used only as a guidance tool. Therapeutic changes are expected to occur mainly through group discussions and the counselor's use of techniques such as emphatic listening, open-ended questioning, reflection of feeling, interpretation, and encouragement. The nature of the group format will enhance the therapeutic effects of these techniques, as the group dynamic and shared experiences of student members come into play.

It is important to note that the actual program implementation was in a mixed weekly and biweekly format. The sessions, initially intended to be conducted once a week over 8 weeks, were administered weekly for sessions 1 and 2, followed by a 2-week break, and later administered biweekly for sessions 3 to 8. During the preparatory meeting, students raised concerns about their midterm exam, final exam and (travel) break schedules, prompting the program redesign. As research supports the effectiveness of biweekly group counseling (e.g., CBT study (Bruijniks et al., 2020)), the program was justifiably revised into a mixed weekly and biweekly format and administered in the aforementioned manner. The implementation timeline was late February to early April 2023, and sessions ran from 7:00pm-8:30pm.

Table 9 ACT program based on Westrup & Wright's (2017) training manual and Younesi et al.'s (2020) study

| Session | Key Topic                            | Protocol  |
|---------|--------------------------------------|---|
| 1       | Introduction & Creative hopelessness | Introducing counselor and group members, breaking the ice, explaining program objective, MIL, and general rules. Discussing and evaluating current first-year university student challenges as well as the 'quicksand' metaphor, creating creative hopelessness, assigning 'sit with it' homework |

Table 9 (cont'd)

|   |                                  |   |
|---|----------------------------------|---|
| 2 | Control agenda and Acceptance    | Explaining 'control' as a problem in controlling painful thoughts and emotions that come with facing challenges as first-year students. Going through 'what are the numbers?' activity and the 'a ball in the pool' metaphor, discussing controlling behaviors, assigning 'acceptance phrase' homework. (Targets coherence subconstruct)                              |
| 3 | Cognitive defusion               | Introducing cognitive fusion, discussing the experiences of cognitive fusion, discussing the 'lemon' metaphor, experiencing 'leaves on a stream' guided mindfulness meditation, illustrating cognitive defusion or separating the self and thoughts, assigning 'labeling thoughts' homework. (Targets coherence subconstruct)   |
| 4 | Contacting the present           | Engaging in guided 'mindfulness meditation' and 'notice 5 things', discussing conflicts between experience and mind, understanding inner experiences as a process, practicing mindfulness techniques by noticing our senses, assigning 'mindful daily routine' homework. (Targets coherence subconstruct)   |
| 5 | Self-as-context                  | Seeing painful thoughts and feelings as separate from the self that is solely an observer, practicing separation of self from internal experiences and behaviors, working on 'the timeline' activity, 'the observing self' guided imagery, and 'the sky and the weather' metaphor, assigning 'the observing self' homework. (Targets coherence subconstruct)          |
| 6 | Values                           | Introducing the concept of values, discovering important values of life as an individual in their first-year of university through psychoeducation, values discussion and reflection, and 'values on the whiteboard' activity, assigning 'clarify your values' homework worksheet (Targets purpose and significance subconstructs).                                   |
| 7 | Values and Committed action      | Further clarifying values, confirming clarified values, creating deep connection with values through the 'my values pledge', introducing valued goal setting via 'the smallest thing I can do', assigning 'the smallest thing I can do' homework (Targets purpose and significance subconstructs).  |
| 8 | Committed action and Termination | Understanding the nature of motivation and commitment, identifying action patterns that align with core values of a meaningful life, designing an action plan to commit to those patterns via 'goal setting' worksheet, reflecting on key learnings, sharing group feelings, administering post-test questionnaire. (Targets purpose and significance subconstructs). |



3. The program was reviewed by the thesis advisor and revised accordingly.

4. Three subject matter experts (SME) assessed the revised program via Content Analysis, providing a decision outcome of “usable” or “unusable” together with improvement suggestions. Sessions must receive a minimum of 2 of 3 SME “usable” ratings to be accepted. Sessions that receive 2 or more SME “unusable” ratings must be adjusted according to improvement suggestions. All sessions were rated as “usable” and supported by improvement suggestions, indicating that the program aligns with the literature and, with minor adjustments, is deemed fit to be used among first-year university students. The researcher conducted in-depth interviews with 2 of the 3 SME’s to clarify the improvement suggestions. The researcher adjusted the program according to the suggestions.

The following suggestions from the content analysis and in-depth interviews were implemented into the program. (See Table 16 in Appendix D for full list of suggestions in Thai.)

**All sessions:** Set a way to evaluate how the objectives of each session can be assessed.

**Session 2** Control agenda and Acceptance: Remove the term “lose” from the question, “What did you lose or sacrifice in trying to control your thoughts and emotions?”

**Session 4** Contacting the present: Include more reflection and sharing of key takeaways to strengthen members’ understanding of Contacting the present moment. Include practice of the skill of noticing self-worth and other’s-worth by asking members to reflect on the strengths they see in themselves and in others, as they engage in the experiential activities.

**Session 5** Self-as-context: Include practice of the skill of noticing other’s-worth by reflecting and sharing the key takeaway of accepting that everyone has different qualities which are all of equal value.

5. Post-IOC, the program was tried out with one group of 6 first-year undergraduate students from a public university in Bangkok, Thailand, similar to the study's sample. Sessions 6-8 were tried out based on being more conceptually difficult sessions that focus on the abstract concept of values and on goal setting. The researcher took note of difficulties during the tryout.

6. The researcher made final adjustments according to the tryout results. Based on observations and feedback from the tryout, the researcher decided to include more personal stories and examples of values and/or goals in each activity to help make the values concept and goal-setting exercises more tangible. The researcher also improved the instructions sections of the "Clarify your values" worksheet to simplify the values identification process – as opposed to using check marks, dash marks, and x marks to symbolize "most important," "somewhat important," and "least important" values, respectively, for each life domain, members were only instructed to use check marks to select what is relevant to them before filtering the top 3 values. The result is an ACT counseling program that is optimized, ready to be used with first-year university students.

#### 4. Data collection

The data collection was carried out according to the following steps:

1. The researcher selected the research location through multi-stage sampling. Bangkok, being the most industrialized city in Thailand was selected, as it most aligns with the conceptualization of emerging adulthood being unique to industrialized societies. The researcher then created a sample of universities in Bangkok and, through randomization, selected Srinakharinwirot University.

2. The researcher submitted a request to the dean's office at the College of Social Communication Innovation (see Figure 9 in Appendix B), asking for assistance in publicizing the study's research (i.e., poster) to recruit first-year students. The researcher also requested the assistance of 2 separate professors at the Learning Tower responsible for teaching general education classes to first-year students from

mixed faculties. Electronic posters were distributed on the researcher's behalf. The poster briefly informed interested applicants of the study's details such as its aim to improve students' MIL and length of the study. Those willing to participate and able to commit to the intervention schedule were asked to fill out a Google Form to provide consent and complete the pre-test questionnaire consisting of demographic questions and the TMLS.

3. Participants were screened according to the inclusion criteria of being first-year university students, having low MIL (score below the 60<sup>th</sup> percentile), being willing to participate, and being able to attend all required sessions. Students who did not make the cut received a thank you email from the researcher that provided their MIL results together with readings on ACT and MIL. The final sample size was 20 participants. 10 subjects were partially randomly assigned, based on availability, into the experimental group (ACT) and 10 into the control group (waitlist).

4. The researcher carried out the group ACT intervention in Thai. In sessions with imperfect attendance, before the start of the session, the researcher reached out to the absent participant(s) for homework submission for the researcher to share with the group on behalf of the participant(s). After the session, the researcher sent a summary of the session including key activities, learnings, and homework into the LINE group chat which had already been set up before the intervention. The researcher then followed up with the absent participants individually to encourage them to read the summary and complete the homework for the next session.

5. After the intervention, both the experimental group and control group completed the post-test questionnaire a day after the 8<sup>th</sup> session. After a short period, the waitlisted control group received individual counseling.

6. The researcher applied the following key statistical tools to the collected data: descriptive statistics, paired and independent samples t-tests. Finally, the researcher interpreted and discussed key findings.

## 5. Data analysis

The data analysis involved descriptive statistics and inferential statistics.

1. Descriptive statistics were used to provide a descriptive overview of the collected demographic data (e.g., distribution, mean, standard deviation).

2. The chosen inferential statistics involved 2 different sets of tools: (1) A paired samples t-test for within group comparison of the pre-test versus the post-test MIL score of the ACT experimental group, and (2) An independent samples t-test for between group comparison of the post-test MIL score of the ACT experimental group versus the waitlist control group.

## 6. Ethical considerations in research

The following section details the steps the researcher took in adhering to the ethical standards required to conduct the study.

1. The researcher completed a full-day online training on “Ethical Principles of Research Involving Human Subjects” organized by the Strategic Wisdom and Research Institute of Srinakharinwirot University on July 2, 2021. The researcher passed the required Ethics Committee Test and was awarded a certificate on the same day, allowing the researcher to conduct human subject research till July 2, 2024 (see Figure 5 in Appendix B).

2. Once this research proposal was approved by the research panel, the researcher sent the research proposal to obtain approval from the Institutional Review Board (IRB) / the Ethics Committee of Human Research, Srinakharinwirot University to affirm compliance with ethical research guidelines (see Figure 6 in Appendix B).

3. At the start of the data collection process, the researcher informed participants of their voluntary participation in the description of the pre-test Google form. During recruitment calls with the final 20 participants, each participant was informed again of their voluntary participation, right to withdraw at any point for any undisclosed reason, and the financial incentive they will receive should they attend all sessions of the study. After receiving confirmed decision to participate, all 20 participants read and

signed the consent form and the participant information sheet. During the introduction session, the researcher verbally confirmed with participants their willingness to participate in the study and informed all participants of their right to withdraw from the study at any time with no consequences.

4. In reporting the research findings, the researcher protected participant confidentiality by reporting only aggregate data that do not contain personally identifiable data and therefore, cannot be traced to any participant. All raw data from the study will be kept confidential and destroyed after a period of at least 3 years, strictly following ethical guidelines.



## Chapter 4

### Results

The results of the study are divided into the following sections:

1. Results of statistical analysis
  - 1.1. Demographic characteristics of participants
  - 1.2. t-test results
    - 1.2.1. Paired samples t-test results
    - 1.2.2. Independent samples t-test results
2. Researcher's observation notes

#### 1. Results of statistical analysis

##### 1.1. Demographic characteristics of participants

Data were analyzed using a statistical software. Table 10 illustrates the demographic characteristics of participants. The experimental group and the control group each had 10 participants. For both groups, there were 8 female and 2 male students and the average age, rounded to the nearest whole number, was 19 years old. The majority of students from both groups (experimental 100%, control 80%) were from the faculty of Humanities and the faculty of Social Sciences.

Table 10 Demographic characteristics of participants

| Demographic variable | Experimental group<br>( <i>n</i> =10) |                        | Control group<br>( <i>n</i> =10) |                        |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------|
|                      | <i>n</i>                              | <i>M</i> ( <i>SD</i> ) | <i>n</i>                         | <i>M</i> ( <i>SD</i> ) |
| Gender               |                                       |                        |                                  |                        |
| Female               | 8                                     |                        | 8                                |                        |
| Male                 | 2                                     |                        | 2                                |                        |
| Age                  |                                       | 19.00 (0.26)           |                                  | 18.80 (0.25)           |
| 18                   | 3                                     |                        | 4                                |                        |
| 19                   | 4                                     |                        | 4                                |                        |

Table 10 (cont'd)

| Demographic variable                | Experimental group<br>( <i>n</i> =10) |                        | Control group<br>( <i>n</i> =10) |                        |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------|
|                                     | <i>n</i>                              | <i>M</i> ( <i>SD</i> ) | <i>n</i>                         | <i>M</i> ( <i>SD</i> ) |
| 20                                  | 3                                     |                        | 2                                |                        |
| Faculty                             |                                       |                        |                                  |                        |
| Humanities                          | 6                                     |                        | 3                                |                        |
| Social Sciences                     | 4                                     |                        | 5                                |                        |
| Science                             | 0                                     |                        | 1                                |                        |
| Business Administration for Society | 0                                     |                        | 1                                |                        |

### 1.2. t-test results

Several assumptions were tested to justify the use of t-tests (see Table 17 and Figure 10 in Appendix E). Firstly, the dependent variable, MIL, is continuous. Secondly, based on the Shapiro-Wilk test, pre-test data did not show evidence of non-normality for the experimental group ( $W=0.891$ ,  $p=.176$ ) and the control group ( $W=0.862$ ,  $p=.082$ ). Thus, the data is assumed to have normal distribution. Thirdly, results from the Levene's test based on the mean suggest that there is insufficient evidence of unequal variances between the 2 groups,  $F(1,18)=3.375$ ,  $p=.083$ ). Therefore, the data is assumed to have homogeneity of variances. Fourthly, there is independence of observations, as each participant was only counted as one independent observation, implying participants were independent of one another. Lastly, the Box-plot diagram displayed no outliers. As the dataset meets all five assumptions, the use of parametric tests or specifically, t-tests, is justified.

#### 1.2.1. Paired samples t-test results

For H1, a paired samples t-test was performed to compare the MIL scores of the experimental group between pre-test and post-test. The effect size for the difference between the two groups was calculated using Hedge's  $g$ . Results from Table



11 for Group: Experimental showed that the experimental group reported significantly higher levels of MIL at post-test ( $M=127.90$ ,  $SD=10.40$ ) than at pre-test ( $M=102.90$ ,  $SD=9.24$ ,  $t(9)=-4.965$ ,  $p<.001$ ) with an effect size of 2.43.

Results for Group: Control from the same table showed that the control group reported a non-significant difference in levels of MIL between pre-test ( $M=107.40$ ,  $SD=12.13$ ) and post-test ( $M=111.80$ ,  $SD=10.10$ ,  $t(9)=-.835$ ,  $p=.425$ ).

Table 11 Paired samples t-test results comparing MIL scores between pre-test and post-test by group, and Effect size result

| Dependent variable    | Group        | Phase | Mean (M) | Standard deviation (SD) | t        | df | p    | Hedges' g |
|-----------------------|--------------|-------|----------|-------------------------|----------|----|------|-----------|
| Meaning in life (MIL) | Experimental | Pre   | 102.90   | 9.24                    | -4.965** | 9  | .001 | 2.43      |
|                       |              | Post  | 127.90   | 10.40                   |          |    |      |           |
|                       | Control      | Pre   | 107.40   | 12.13                   | -.835    | 9  | .425 |           |
|                       |              | Post  | 111.80   | 10.10                   |          |    |      |           |

\*\*Statistically significant at  $p$ -value of .01

### 1.2.2. Independent samples t-test results

For H2, an independent samples t-test was performed to compare the MIL scores between the experimental group and the control group at post-test. The effect size for the difference between the two groups was calculated using Hedges'  $g$ . Results from Table 12 for Phase: Post showed that the experimental group reported significantly higher levels of MIL ( $M=127.90$ ,  $SD=10.40$ ) than the control group ( $M=111.80$ ,  $SD=10.10$ ,  $t(18)=3.513$ ,  $p<.0025$ ) at post-test with an effect size of 1.50.

Results for Phase: Pre from the same table showed that the experimental group reported a non-significant difference in levels of MIL ( $M=102.90$ ,  $SD=9.24$ ) compared to the control group ( $M=107.40$ ,  $SD=12.13$ ,  $t(18)=-.933$ ,  $p=.363$ ) at pre-test.

Table 12 Independent samples t-test results comparing MIL scores between the experimental group and the control group by phase, and Effect size result

| Dependent variable    | Phase | Group        | Mean (M) | Standard deviation (SD) | <i>t</i> | <i>df</i> | <i>p</i> | Hedges' <i>g</i> |
|-----------------------|-------|--------------|----------|-------------------------|----------|-----------|----------|------------------|
| Meaning in life (MIL) | Pre   | Experimental | 102.90   | 9.24                    | -9.33    | 18        | .363     |                  |
|                       |       | Control      | 107.40   | 12.13                   |          |           |          |                  |
|                       | Post  | Experimental | 127.90   | 10.40                   | 3.513**  | 18        | .0025    |                  |
|                       |       | Control      | 111.80   | 10.10                   |          |           |          |                  |

\*\*Statistically significant at *p*-value of .01

## 2. Researcher's observation notes

The researcher assessed key learnings from each session based on members' discussion and involvement and between-session homework review and discussion which were recorded in the researcher's observation notes and detailed below. (Quotes have been translated from Thai into English.)

### Session 1 Introduction and Creative hopelessness

**Group process:** There was an initial discomfort and nervous energy at the start of the session, as the group included a mix of members who had seen each other on campus and those who had not met before. After members went through the ice-breaking activities of "Introduction" and "Getting to know you," and after the researcher reflected and connected members through shared experiences, members began to relax and share more personal stories of transitioning into university, using the group as a safe space to ventilate. There were shaky voices and tears during the "Creative hopelessness" activity which led to encouragement, and consequently, improved connection between members. Members displayed empathy and compassion, leading to the beginning of therapeutic change, unique to group counseling.

**Session outcome:** Members were made aware of the group objectives and program details. Members lowered their guard and connected through the shared struggle of transitioning into university as first-year students. The similarities and

differences between stories and between techniques used to handle difficulties, tied together by the common theme of suffering, allowed members to appreciate their own unique, yet fundamentally similar experience. The outcome was realizing that they were not facing these challenges alone on this journey of life and that certain techniques used did not permanently eliminate the difficulty. Members were open to trying out a new way of approaching challenges, as they experienced the “Quicksand metaphor” and practiced “Sitting with it.”

Based on “Sitting with it” homework discussion at the beginning of Session 2, members found sitting with it difficult to practice, as they either felt it amplified the difficult feelings which they wanted to get rid of in the first place or did not alleviate the feeling.

*“I tried staying with my thoughts and emotions and it made me feel more uncomfortable than when struggling with myself to get rid of them (Student 10).”*

*“I had a project meeting with a friend and that friend came late. Typically, I would be quick to complain, but I practiced pausing before speaking and did not criticize her. I felt uncomfortable not being able to voice out my thoughts (Student 5).”*

In contrast, some were familiar with sitting with their emotions and found the activity defused the severity of their emotions.

*“I encountered a problem but did not try to fix it immediately. Instead, I sat with myself and I felt better. Normally, I would think of ways to fix the issue immediately. When I stopped and stayed still, the discomfort slowly faded away (Student 8).”*

Others found that the emotion felt neither intensified nor lessened.

*“I felt bored but did not do anything about it. I stayed that way for 5-10 minutes until it was time to attend my next class. The boredom neither lessened nor increased (Student 3).”*

## Session 2 Control agenda and Acceptance

**Group process:** The session ran with a lethargic and sleepy energy as it was the end of a long school day and activities mainly focused on thinking and imagination, in contrast to Session 1 which had exciting ice-breaking activities. Nevertheless, members provided encouragement to each other and displayed verbal and non-verbal reaction to other members' stories through smiling, nodding, clapping, and turning on their microphone to verbally affirm other members' effort in dealing with challenges. Members who were quieter in Session 1 felt more confident to turn on their microphone and share their opinion without being prompted. There was a stronger sense of camaraderie within the group.

**Session outcome:** During the "Ball in the pool metaphor" activity, members who used avoidance strategies (e.g., distraction, challenging thoughts) to deal with their difficult emotions were made aware of how drained these strategies made them feel and how the difficulties were only temporarily diffused (e.g., breakup sadness, loneliness). Members learned the mechanism of human thought and language, underlying the futility of avoidance strategies. Members adopted an open mind and willingly embraced the idea of not having to struggle with the nature of being human and the idea of acceptance, of allowing thoughts and emotions to be as they are.

Based on the "Acceptance phrase" homework discussion at the beginning of Session 3, a few members admitted that they did not practice using the selected phrase, as they did not encounter any "big challenges" during the past week. One of these members immediately practiced inhale and exhale acceptance phrase at the beginning of the session and felt their emotions diffused as they inhaled and exhaled.

*"There wasn't really any event during the past week that I could use the Acceptance phrase with (Student 10)."*

*"I forgot that I had to do this homework because I previously didn't really have any problems. However, I am currently facing an issue and so the moment I joined the session and remembered the homework, I practiced*

*the phrase immediately. I breathed into the feeling and felt better (Student 7).*

Other members who did the homework either reported not liking the experience of feeling their emotions or not seeing any improvement in their feelings.

*I am currently dealing with problems in my love life and have been feeling quite sad. I tried letting myself feel sad but realized that sometimes I don't want to feel sad. I don't want to think this way or feel this way. It doesn't feel good. I want to feel better (Student 5)."*

*"I already do allow myself to feel negative feelings. However, in terms of acceptance, I am able to accept certain issues like those of academic nature, but with issues like playing futsal poorly, I can't accept that. Breathing in and breathing out neither mitigated the problem, nor exacerbated it (Student 3)."*

One member was able to accept their emotion of feeling proud of their ex-partner despite no longer being together in the relationship.

*"I was able to accept feeling proud of my ex-partner when I saw them deliver a great dance performance on stage, even though I was no longer by their side (Student 2)."*

### **Session 3 Cognitive defusion**

**Group process:** Members felt comfortable sharing troubled feelings that came up during the "Lemon metaphor" activity, as well as personal stories or difficulties they had gone through or were going through (e.g., relationship breakup). The moment an opportunity came up to say something to a member that had just shared a personal and sensitive story, two members jumped in immediately to give support and motivation (i.e., "you did so well") and a shy member typed out their encouragement in the chat-box (i.e., "sending hugs"). The session was infused with an organic supportive energy, strengthening the connection between members. After the session ended, one member felt compelled to share a podcast in the LINE group chat as a resource to help deal with breakup grief, as this was a podcast that helped the member process their own grief.

**Session outcome:** Members experienced the “stickiness” of negative thoughts or beliefs about themselves (e.g., “I am a lousy person”) when the “Lemon metaphor” activity failed to disconnect members from their thoughts; members believed these thoughts so deeply that they could not see these beliefs as jumbled words through quick verbal repetitions. Nevertheless, during the “Leaves on a stream” guided mindfulness activity, members were able to experientially engage in seeing their thoughts and emotions floating on leaves down the stream without trying to control, change, or avoid them. One member saw the thought “I am not good looking” float down the stream and noticed that it no longer had a significant impact on them; the thought came and went without the member picking up the leaf. Another member saw the thought “The relationship failed because of me” float down the stream along with other compassionate thoughts such as “You are doing well. It won’t hurt as much the next time.”

Based on the “Labeling thoughts” homework discussion at the beginning of Session 4, many members were able to notice and label their thoughts and emotions. One member shared that they were able to notice and label their frustrated feeling during an online game session when other players started swearing at each other.

*“During the past 2 days, I did not do anything aside from online gaming. I noticed a negative thought that I did not verbalize. I noticed I was feeling frustrated. I stopped myself from joining in with other players to criticize a poor player. Then, I told everyone to stop fighting (Student 2).”*

Another member noticed themselves questioning whether they would be late to school as they were commuting and noticed the itchiness caused by their allergy.

*“I was riding the MRT (metro) on the way to campus and noticed I had the thought of wondering whether I would be late to class. I also have an allergy right now and noticed then that the rash on my skin felt itchy (pointed to wrist wrapped in gauze) (Student 3).”*

Another caught themselves ruminating and so, engaged in the previous “Acceptance phrase” homework by inhaling and exhaling and returning to the task at hand.

*“I did the homework briefly yesterday. I was at work and watching some IG (Instagram) stories, when a random person messaged me saying, “Should I tell you that I like you?” I lost all focus, made a mistake, and keyed in an incorrect order. The delivery person left to deliver the pizza but had to come back to pick up the correct order. I sat myself down and realized I was having all these thoughts; I was overthinking. I breathed in and breathed out, reset myself, and returned to work until closing time, not making another mistake (Student 7).”*

A member noticed their frustration during their regular 2-hour commute from university to home.

*“The weather was hot yesterday, and I was on a public bus without air conditioning, commuting home. I caught myself feeling frustrated. At that moment, I felt myself calm down. Coincidentally, a passenger by the window seat got off and I was able to take their place (Student 9).”*

#### **Session 4 Contacting the present**

**Group process:** At this point of the program, members had developed a strong sense of trust in the group which allowed for displays of honesty. Members were more vocally honest about having done or not having done homework and their reasons for not doing so. Members fully cooperated and engaged in the guided “Mindfulness meditation” activity, evident not only in members closing their eyes, but also in their reflection at the end of the activity. Members connected with one another through shared feelings of calm, lightness, and silence.

**Session outcome:** For most members, the “Mindfulness meditation” activity was the first time they got to experience mindfulness and full immersion into their sense of touch, sense of hearing, breathing, and heartbeat. Members followed through with the guided mindfulness without challenging or attempting to change their present internal or



external experience. Members reflected that they enjoyed the activity and on top of feeling at peace, they saw other benefits to noticing the details of the present moment such as being aware of the full range of solutions to deal with a problem, being more equipped to regulate their emotions, and being able to savor positive experiences.

Based on the “Mindful daily routine” homework discussion at the beginning of Session 5, many members ran into challenges while trying to be mindful during their chosen daily routine. One member found themselves to be highly distracted and filled with frustration while practicing piano in a noisy environment among other family members, resulting in them quitting the activity altogether.

*“I had to use the grand piano downstairs, as the electric keyboard in my room was broken. As I practiced, I noticed that so many people were talking in the room, and it was very noisy. I felt frustrated and annoyed and was unable to focus. I made so many mistakes that I decided to quit playing altogether and returned to my room (Student 2).”*

Another member focused too hard on being mindful during their morning makeup routine that they kept forgetting a step in their makeup each time they practiced mindfulness. Nevertheless, this member reported the by-product of starting the day being mindful as being able to slow down for the rest of the day.

*“I practiced 3-4 times. I was very focused on applying my make up, so focused that I forgot certain steps such as putting on the eyeliner. Normally, putting on make-up would be a quick, muscle memory sort-of activity for me, as I listen to a podcast. However, when I tried mindfully applying make-up, it took 20 minutes of my morning time and so I forgot certain steps, because I had to leave for campus. Nevertheless, on the days I practiced mindful make-up application, I would feel more focused for the rest of the day. I would take slower steps as I walked, not tripping like I normally would as a person who likes to speed through everything (Student 7).”*

A few members were able to simply notice their present experiences without much difficulty.

*“I chose cooking as my mindful routine. I felt the heat of the gas stove, the wind through the windows, and noticed mosquitoes flying. I caught myself thinking, “why are there so many mosquitoes? Am I using the right temperature? Why is the liver not cooked?” I felt more aware than usual. I was able to smell the aroma and notice feeling frustrated by the mosquitoes, a feeling I had not noticed before (Student 3).”*

*“I chose watching movies. I went to the cinema and sat very close to the screen. I noticed myself thinking, “am I going to get neck pain?” I felt very cold. Every time I spoke to my friend, I would think “Are others going to be annoyed of us?” I wondered, “the audience is so still, are they not enjoying the movie? (Student 5).”*

### **Session 5 Self-as-context**

**Group process:** By now, it was clear that there were 4-5 members who were key drivers in each sharing and discussion. These members continued to turn on their microphones without being prompted. The “Timeline” exercise saw members connecting through shared experiences (e.g., failing exams, not getting into dream university, going through a breakup) and developing a sense of compassion and pride in themselves and others. The safe space established in the group also gave members who had different views the confidence to voice these contrasting opinions or experiences (e.g., “I’m not that proud of myself.”), allowing the researcher to highlight that everyone is allowed to go through their own “unique” journey at their own pace and understanding. Overall, the energy in the group was positive and infused with feelings of pride, competence, and growth. Nevertheless, there were a few members who remained relatively quiet; with these members, the researcher encouraged active involvement through gently, yet specifically asking for the member’s opinion.

**Session outcome:** The “Timeline” activity allowed members to see themselves as an entity that had existed and continues to exist across time, an entity that experienced good and bad events yet continues to live on through them all, as reflected in student 2’s quote.

*“Our life is one straight, continuous line. Many events happen that make our life peak and plunge, but life still goes on (Student 2).”*

Based on the “Observing self” homework discussion at the beginning of Session 6, members generally reported that they felt the activity added an interesting perspective to their mindfulness practice. One member noticed themselves feeling sad and was able to notice the sadness as a separate emotion from themselves, albeit temporarily, before being overwhelmed by their sadness.

*“There was a moment when I was lying around and feeling sad. I thought of the activity and tried to visualize myself sitting here and the sad feeling sitting there. I visualized the sadness as a separate being. I sat looking at myself and looking at my sadness, noticing myself notice the sadness. It then occurred to me that it was just a feeling. But after that, I felt sad again (Student 5).”*

Another member was aware of their under-pressure feeling but could not see it as a separate entity from them.

*“I observed myself but did not really feel like I was separate from my feeling. I was speed-walking around in a book fair, quickly trying to find the books I had in mind, as I had to rush back for the group session. I noticed I felt under-pressure, but I did not feel like it was separate from me (Student 3).”*

The researcher emphasized that these are very new skills and as with working out and building muscular strength, these skills will need practice and it is okay to take the time to strengthen them.

### **Session 6 Values**

**Group process:** The same vocal members continued to speak up and share, while quieter members listened on. Nevertheless, quiet members remained engaged as they could be seen nodding, shaking their heads, and making an OK hand sign along with other members during yes or no questions. These quiet members also actively typed their chosen values on the Google slide during the “Values on the whiteboard”

activity, as seen by the active accounts on the slide. Through seeing the high repetition of certain values typed out on the “whiteboard” and realizing many others shared the same values (e.g., openness to new experiences), members were able to connect and develop a sense of belonging. There was a lot more individually oriented work in this session and not as much “pure” sharing and discussion. Interest and novelty were apparent in the high level of engagement in these individual exercises.

**Session outcome:** The values-through-the-ages storytelling allowed members to notice the challenges in the key values across childhood, adolescence, and current age. This marked the beginning of the awareness of values and re-emphasized the self-as-context process. Even though members spoke in terms of activities they liked to do as opposed to “values,” the researcher was able to reflect and draw out values from those activities to gradually introduce and clarify the concept of values (e.g., I liked doing a lot of activities when I was young could be you had values of being active, open to new experiences, or curiosity). Moreover, thinking about people they admired through the “Values reflection” activity gave members further clarity on values that were important to them. “Values on the whiteboard” was a completely new experience for all members, and not only provided them the opportunity to think their values through but also helped them identify new values based on other members’ deeply held values. Members reflected at the end that they got to know themselves better.

Based on the “Clarify your values” worksheet homework reflection at the beginning of session 7, many members found that having to select only the top 3 values for each dimension of life was challenging, as there were many values they found to be competing in importance.

*“The homework felt as difficult as the in-session activity. When I was ticking the values that were important to me, I felt like this value seemed right and that value seemed right. Selecting the top 3 values was even more difficult. Everything on the list felt important. I don’t know if the top 3 I chose are actually my most important values (Student 5).”*

*“I had a similar experience with Student 5. It was hard and it was incredibly difficult when I had to filter in the most important, top 3 values (Student 6).”*

*“The final step of circling the top 3 values was extremely hard because I felt this value was important but that value was also important. It was hard to decide on the final 3 values (Student 10).”*

*“It was very tough. I didn’t know what to choose. I felt like a lot of values were important to me (Student 4).”*

Another did not find clarifying their values challenging and, in contrast to other members, realized that certain values they thought were important were actually not that important.

*“I didn’t feel like it was that difficult to choose, but what surprised me was realizing that certain values I thought were way more important to me, upon reflection, were actually not that important. Some of these values did not make the top 3 (Student 3).”*

Some observed that their identified values repeated across different life dimensions.

*“In the family relationship and friendship life domains, I ticked a lot of similar values. As I was making the check marks, I felt surprised and thought, “Why are so many important values the same?” (Student 5).”*

*“Similar to Student 5, a lot of my values are the same in both the family and friend life domains (Student 6).”*

The researcher reflected that the repetitions could signal highly important values to their life or values that are central to their identity at present.

#### **Session 7 Committed action**

**Group process:** The quieter members were more actively engaged in this session. One typically quiet member spoke more and turned on their microphone to speak without being prompted at certain times. Another typically quiet member, when

invited to share their opinion, shared their views at greater length and with more detail than usual. There was an established sense of familiarity that had built up across sessions. During the “Values discussion” activity, members connected with each other as they reacted to other members’ sharing with verbal input, laughter, nodding, raising their hand to communicate similarity, and displaying a victory hand-sign to offer support. Members felt comfortable voicing differing opinions (e.g., “It wasn’t so much about getting to know myself better, but more about being more confident in myself,” “I didn’t find it difficult to select my top 3 values.”). Trust continued to be evident in the group.

**Session outcome:** Most members gained clarity on the key values underpinning their life and felt a clear sense of life direction for the first time. During reflection following the “My values pledge” activity, one member reported that the exercise affirmed their values and instilled a sense of pride in their having lived according to them. Another member, however, shared that they were uncertain whether they would be able to do as they pledged. Evident in the members’ sharing, members were engaged in the active process of self-reflecting and self-monitoring, checking whether the identified values were aligned with who they were or how they wanted to live. In doing the “Smallest thing I can do” activity, members were able to pick out 3 key values across all life domains and brainstorm one immediate goal they could accomplish within 24 hours for each value. Every member shared their values and goals to the group to create a sense of commitment.

Aside from the views already presented on the “My values pledge” activity, other members reported that the exercise instilled a sense of purpose and life direction.

*“It felt weird. I’ve never done something like this before. It reminded me of what’s important to me and how I can create my purpose and plan and direct my life. I think life should be easier now after this exercise (Student 6).”*

*“Same with Student 6. It was a very new experience. I’ve never spent time doing this. I usually am very laidback with how I spend my day-to-day life.*

*But this reflection was good. I now have purpose and direction which will be useful for when I encounter problems (Student 5)."*

Based on the "Smallest thing I can do" homework discussion at the beginning of Session 8, most members were able to execute their value-driven 24-hour goals. One member shared how they were able to execute all 3 goals, serving the values of responsibility, pleasure, and mindfulness.

*In service of mindfulness, my goal was to prepare the things I had to bring to university the night before so that I don't forget to bring them the next day. I usually forget to bring one thing or another when going somewhere in the morning. This time I packed my things at night, double checked, and did not forget. In service of pleasure, I chose to listen to music. That night I listened to music before bed. I listened to my favorite songs from my favorite artists. I had so much pleasure, I couldn't sleep. In service of responsibility, I had planned to get to my group meeting on time, because I would normally be late. This time I got there on time and was the one waiting for my friends instead (Student 8)."*

This member further reflected on their successful goal execution.

*"I felt good about being punctual. I can now empathize with my friends who usually arrive on time."*

A few members were able to partially complete their goals, such as the following member who shared that they were able to complete their goals in service of self-respect and mindfulness but were unable complete their goal in service of fortitude.

*"In service of mindfulness, I had planned on remembering to bring my inhaler with me in the morning to alleviate my motion sickness commuting via the BTS (sky train). I remembered to bring it because I had stuck a note in front of the mirror and saw it before leaving my room. In service of self-respect, I had planned to say positive affirmations to myself before bed to heal myself from the midterm experience of getting points deducted for messy handwriting. I told myself "You did your best. You did well." In service of fortitude, I had intended to block my ex-partner's LINE chat.*



*However, I was unable to do this, as when I blocked them on IG (Instagram), they messaged me on LINE, asking whether I blocked them on IG (Student 10)."*

This member further reflected on the novelty of setting and attempting these goals:

*"It's a funny feeling, positively affirming myself because I've never done it before. Usually at bedtime, I would think of all the bad things that happened. Blocking my ex-partner's chat is also something new. I had never thought of doing it, but when I set it as my goal, I felt it was not that difficult (Student 10)."*

Another member, who partially accomplished their goals, shared that they were able to fully achieve their goal in service of flexibility, partially achieve their goal in service of trust, but unable to achieve their goal in service of persistence.

*"In service of flexibility, I had planned to work on my writing assignment after the group session but if I felt lazy, I would rest then continue writing. I achieved this goal because I was very lazy, and I allowed myself to lie down for a long time. In service of persistence, I had planned on finishing my writing assignment before midnight. However, because I was very flexible with myself, I was unable to achieve this goal and had to carry over the assignment to another day. In service of trust, I had planned to trust myself that I would be able to accomplish the two goals. However, I was only able to accomplish one of them and so only partially achieved this goal (Student 9)."*

The researcher took this opportunity to emphasize the possibility that goals in service of different values may clash as observed by Student 9's sharing. When this happens, members may need to prioritize their goals and values at that moment and assess the consequences of choosing one goal over another.

#### **Session 8 Committed action and termination**

**Group process:** Similar to Session 6, there was a lot more individually oriented work in this session and not as much "pure" sharing and discussion. At this

point, members had been on the self-development journey together for 7 sessions. There was an air of ease and familiarity and the same level of commitment seen across sessions, evident in the eye contact, deep in thought furrowed eyebrows, and active engagement in the session exercises, and for vocal members, in continuing to go first in sharing. Toward the end of the session, members shared their gratitude, thanking the researcher for the learning opportunity and thanking other members for sharing their personal stories and growing together. Members also motivated each other in their journey as university students. There was hope, positive encouragement, and friendship.

**Session outcome:** Although members were able to come up with a lot of goals during the “Brainstorm commitments for each value” activity, a lot of the goals were more generic, non-specific goals. The researcher took the opportunity to scope these goals at the end of the activity, emphasizing goals that are actionable and can be ticked off. In the “Goal setting” activity, members were able to set their immediate and short-term goals. However, members had difficulty setting medium to long term goals, saying they were unable to visualize how more intangible values could translate into an actionable goal. The researcher took the opportunity to explain that some domains and some values may be easier to set short term goals and harder to set long term goals. It is completely fine to adjust and be flexible with goal setting. The most important goals are the goals in the here and now, goals one can live out every day. Overtime, when students progress in their school, work, and future family milestones, longer term goals may become easier to set. After wrapping up all ACT processes through the “Passengers on the bus” guided mindfulness activity, one member shared that they were aware of the passengers that kept getting on and off their bus as “voices in their head” that reinforced their lack of confidence, causing them to miss out on what they wanted to do. They were also aware of the other passengers or the voices of their friends who believed in them and encouraged them to take on life’s opportunities.

During the final reflection on the “Termination” activity, members shared what they liked, what they learned and/or what worked well for them. Some reflected that they continued to apply the “Ball in the pool metaphor” of acceptance from Session 2 in

their life as well as the “Labeling thoughts” from Session 3 to release their control over feelings of sadness and separate themselves from the emotion.

*“I learned a lot about thoughts and emotions especially during the session with the “Ball in the pool” metaphor, about attempting to keep the balls under water. I feel like I can always apply this metaphor and look at my thoughts and feelings this way. Sometimes when I’m sad, I catch myself trying to keep this ball of sadness under water, but I realize I can let go and see the ball rise and float away, allowing me to better manage my life. I also got a lot out of the sessions on separating my thoughts and looking at my feelings. I am now able to look at myself, notice what I am feeling, and observe the feeling as one of the feelings I am experiencing. It allows me to have a clear head to think about how to best manage myself so that this problem doesn’t happen again (Student 5).”*

Another did not see a drastic change in themselves but, like most members, appreciated being a part of the group and knowing that others were also going through their own life challenges.

*“I do not see a big change in myself in the ability to observe my feelings as separate from myself and in setting goals. However, what I really like about all this is the fact that it was a group activity. I was able to listen to other people’s stories and problems and notice how everyone had different issues. It made me feel like I was not facing my troubles alone, that I had friends in this mess with me (Student 3).”*

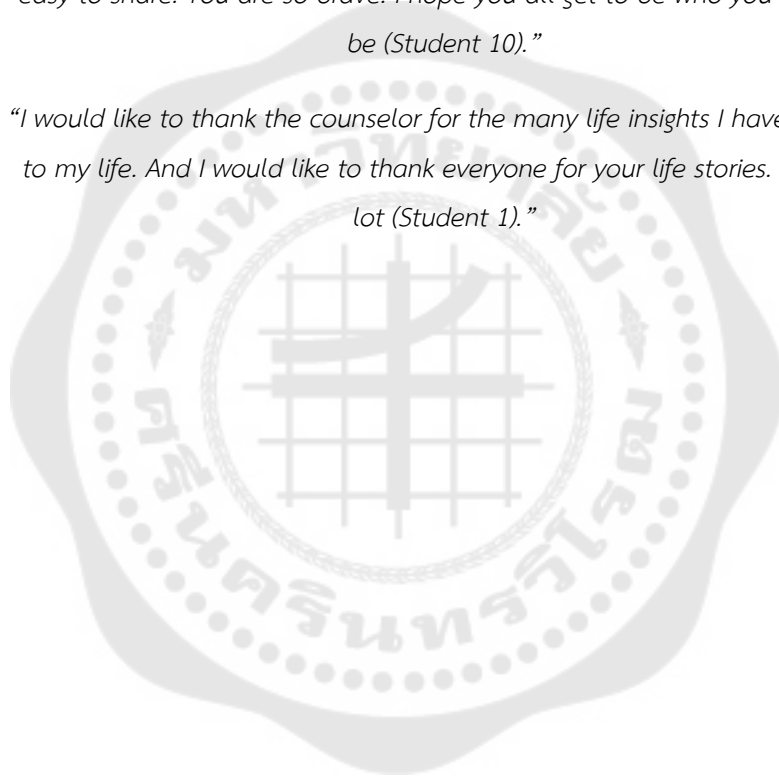
Many validated each other’s journey and shared encouragement and faith that everyone would be able to continue their journey and overcome whatever challenges life may bring.

*“We may not talk personally, but we have been here together, we have shared so many stories. I feel close to everyone. You all did very well to overcome all the different life challenges. I would like to keep in touch with everyone if that’s alright (Student 7).”*

*“Everyone here has done an amazing job. We have been able to overcome everything and grow into who we are today because of ourselves. We are awesome. I want everyone to be kind to themselves. We may not do as good a job as other people in certain things but know that we are doing our best (Student 5).”*

*“If anyone, including the counselor, feels like today is a bad day, know that there are only 24 hours in a day, and a new day will usher in a new beginning. I would like to thank everyone for sharing their life stories. It is not easy to share. You are so brave. I hope you all get to be who you want to be (Student 10).”*

*“I would like to thank the counselor for the many life insights I have applied to my life. And I would like to thank everyone for your life stories. Smile a lot (Student 1).”*



## Chapter 5

### Discussion

The discussion is divided into the following sections:

1. Overview of the study
2. Discussion
3. Limitations of study
4. Recommendations
  - 4.1. Recommendations for practice
  - 4.2. Recommendations for future research
5. Conclusion

#### 1. Overview of the study

The research objective of the study was to explore the effects of ACT on MIL among first-year university students.

This study was a pre-test post-test quasi-experiment with a control group. 20 first-year university students from Srinakharinwirot University were recruited based on having a low MIL score (score below the 60<sup>th</sup> percentile) on TMLS at pre-test, then partially randomly assigned into the experimental group and the control group. The 10 members in the experimental group received the 8-session ACT intervention, while the 10 members in the control group were waitlisted. At the end of the intervention, both groups completed the post-test.

Results from the paired samples t-test support hypothesis 1: the experimental group reported significantly higher levels of MIL at post-test than at pre-test with a large effect size. Results from the independent samples t-test support hypothesis 2: the experimental group reported significantly higher levels of MIL than the control group at post-test with a large effect size. These findings indicate that participating in ACT strongly improved MIL.

## 2. Discussion

### The effects of ACT on MIL

The discussion exploring why and how ACT strongly improved MIL can be divided into 2 parts: (1) ACT processes and (2) Program structure.

#### ACT processes

##### Acceptance and Cognitive defusion

Theoretically, literature endorses the processes of Acceptance and Cognitive defusion as crucial to strengthening MIL. According to Luoma et al. (2017) and Westrup & Wright (2017), Acceptance in ACT builds clients' ability to accept thoughts and feelings as they emerge without trying to avoid, change, or eliminate them. Cognitive defusion in ACT reinforces clients' ability to "defuse" themselves from these thoughts by looking at them as just thoughts or words that are produced and are separate from the clients themselves. The mechanisms of these processes worked directly to enhance Coherence in MIL, defined as the "sense of comprehensibility and one's life making sense" (Martela & Steger, 2016, p. 534), felt when one cognitively reflects on their life experience. These processes operationalized Coherence based on the Narrative Identity Theory (McAdams & Cox, 2010) which contends that the main challenge of emerging adulthood is constructing a narrative identity. In this task, the person is recognized as the "I" or the storyteller who continually rearranges life events to give rise to an integrative, meaningful "Me" or life story, covering how the "I" has developed and how they will continue to develop. These concepts were fully explored in the program's Sessions 2 and 3 which were dedicated to the processes of Acceptance and Cognitive defusion.

For instance, in Session 2 students were guided to engage in activities (i.e., What are the numbers, Ball in the pool) that allowed them to understand that having thoughts and feelings is an inevitable part of being human and that having negative thoughts is not a character flaw. They were guided to explore the alternative option of simply letting their thoughts and feelings be, by letting go of the beach balls they were pushing to stay underwater, letting these balls float up and far away and near,

and noticing but not engaging with them. In Session 3, activities like “The lemon” metaphor and “Leaves on a stream” drilled on the stickiness of language and worked on looking at thoughts and emotions floating down the stream on leaves, separate from who the students were. Students learned how to accept the presence of their thoughts and extract themselves from these thoughts, as they navigate bumps in their “life story.” This is illustrated in Student 7’s reflection on the “Labeling thoughts” homework in session 3, in which the practice of “Acceptance phrase” homework from Session 2 can also be seen:

*“I did the homework briefly yesterday. I was at work and watching some IG (Instagram) stories, when a random person messaged me saying, “Should I tell you that I like you?” I lost all focus, made a mistake, and keyed in an incorrect order. The delivery person left to deliver the pizza but had to come back to pick up the correct order. I sat myself down and realized I was having all these thoughts; I was overthinking. I breathed in and breathed out, reset myself, and returned to work until closing time, not making another mistake (Student 7).”*

The processes of Acceptance and Cognitive defusion also operationalized Coherence in MIL based on the Meaning Maintenance Model (MMM) (Heine et al., 2006). MMM asserts that humans are meaning makers, that humans have an innate capacity to build meaning frameworks, to identify and fix framework breakdowns/inconsistencies. It also asserts that humans will reaffirm alternative intact frameworks following a disruption to meaning frameworks. These concepts were similarly interwoven into the program’s sessions 2 and 3, focused on Acceptance and Cognitive defusion.

For instance, in both sessions 2 and 3, students were psycho-educating on ACT’s Relational Frame Theory, or the stickiness of human language (Hayes, 2004). Students learned that having thoughts and feelings is a condition of being human and that consequently, being human means we will suffer, we will get stuck in our thoughts and feelings. Likewise, Acceptance activities like the “Ball in a



pool” metaphor and Cognitive defusion activities like the “Leaves on a stream” guided meditation gave students a set of generic, contextual skills to rely on, akin to an all-encompassing meaning framework (psychological flexibility) that can be used to accept and defuse thoughts, in which students learn to understand that broken frameworks are natural, and that frameworks will break down. Student 7’s quote mentioned earlier illustrates the learning and application of these Acceptance and Cognitive defusion skills, as the student notices and defuses from their chaotic thoughts and breathes into them as a way of acceptance. This newly developed coherent meaning framework is also evident in Student 5’s learning reflection during Termination in Session 8:

*“Sometimes when I’m sad, I catch myself trying to keep this ball of sadness under water, but I realize I can let go and see the ball rise and float away, allowing me to better manage my life...I am now able to look at myself, notice what I am feeling, and observe the feeling as one of the feelings I am experiencing. It allows me to have a clear head to think about how to best manage myself so that this problem doesn’t happen again (Student 5).”*

#### **Contacting the present and Self-as-context**

Theoretically, literature endorses the processes of Contacting the present and Self-as-context as fundamental to improving MIL. Luoma et al. (2017) and Westrup & Wright (2017) explain Contacting the present as building the ability to be in contact with events as they occur, to notice all the different aspects of the current experience including our thoughts and feelings, and to be completely aware of the here and now, now and then, not rigidly fixated on the process. Self-as-context, on the other hand, is focused on building the skill to notice a separation between the self and the events or the thoughts and feelings that unfold. These two processes contributed to increased Coherence in MIL based on the Meaning Maintenance Model (MMM) (Heine et al., 2006). Expanding on MMM’s previous recap, the model contends that humans have a need for meaning, a need to make sense of events to maintain predictability or regularity in life. The model claims that meaning is about coherent relations between the world, the self, and the self and the world. For instance, having coherent relations within

the self would demand that there is some sort of understandable continuity between our past-self 10 years ago and our present self, that our thoughts, behaviors, and memories make sense. These concepts were explored and processed in Sessions 4 and 5, focused on Contacting the present and Self-as-context.

For instance, in Session 4 students were taken through the “Mindfulness meditation” activity to experience full awareness of their internal experiences in isolation, such as their breathing, their sense of touch, their sense of sound, and their heartbeat – the mundane yet wonderful regularity of life. The experience was extended through the “Mindful Daily Routine” homework in which students practiced noticing their experience as they cook, do their makeup, or other routine activities. In session 5, students expanded their Contacting the present skills by learning Self-as-context, learning to observe themselves observe their experiences, via activities such as “The timeline.” Students were able to be in the present and to rise above the many events in their lives and see a coherent continuation of themselves across the years, as reflected in Student 2’s insight on “The timeline” activity in Session 5:

*“Our life is one straight, continuous line. Many events happen that make our life peak and plunge, but life still goes on (Student 2).”*

#### **Values and Committed action**

Theoretically, literature endorses the processes of Values and Committed action as key to the development of MIL. According to Luoma et al. (2017) and Westrup & Wright (2017), the Values process focuses on guiding clients to identify their core values or what gives their lives meaning, providing clients with a road map or sense of direction toward a rich and meaningful life. Committed action focuses on setting goals in service of these values and being committed to carrying out the goals despite slips and falls. The mechanisms of these processes worked directly to engender Purpose in MIL, defined as the “sense of core goals, aims, and direction in life” (Martela & Steger, 2016, p. 534), felt when a person reflects on the motivational aspect of their

experience (Martela & Steger, 2016). These processes directly operationalized Purpose based on Carver and Scheier's (1998) Self-Regulation Model which purports that human behavior is driven by the process of identifying and pursuing "be" goals and "do" goals. "Be" goals reflect the person's identity and core values and motivate "do" goals or actions that the person carries out to live the "be" goals. Because "be" goals reflect a person's deeply held values, they can never be fully attained in the way that "do" goals can be completed and reset in service of the same "be" goal. These concepts were fully explored in the program's Sessions 6-8 which were dedicated to the processes of Values and Committed Action.

For instance, in Session 6, students were psycho-educated on values and goals, learning that values are like a compass that gives life direction, are what truly matter to our lives, and are unattainable. On the other hand, goals are actions we take in service of these values; they can be accomplished. Students engaged in a series of exercises and discussions that provided them with the space and tools to deeply reflect on what was important to them. The entire group had never gone through intensive values clarification, thus the experience of uncovering their "be" goals was new and eye-opening, as seen in Student 3's reflection on the "Clarify your values" homework in Session 6:

*"I didn't feel like it was that difficult to choose, but what surprised me was realizing that certain values I thought were way more important to me, upon reflection, were actually not that important. Some of these values did not make the top 3 (Student 3)."*

Similar insight and clarity on purpose and direction in life are reflected in Student 6's thoughts on the "My values pledge" activity in Session 7:

*"It felt weird. I've never done something like this before. It reminded me of what's important to me and how I can create my purpose and plan and direct my life. I think life should be easier now after this exercise (Student 6)."*

Regarding Committed action, students were guided to create goals in service of their clarified values and were given the time between Sessions 7 and 8 to complete them. The positive reinforcement of completing valued goals is evident in Student 10's reflection on their experience of "The smallest thing I can do" homework:

*"It's a funny feeling, positively affirming myself because I've never done it before. Usually at bedtime, I would think of all the bad things that happened. Blocking my ex-partner's chat is also something new. I had never thought of doing it, but when I set it as my goal, I felt it was not that difficult (Student 10)."*

In clarifying their values and setting and completing goals in service of these values, students were motivated to pursue these self-set goals and reap the intrinsic rewards of their behavior. This process is not only supported by the Self-Regulation Theory (Carver & Scheier, 1998) but also by the Expectancy-Value Model (Eccles, 1983) and the Self-Determination Theory (Ryan & Deci, 2000), theories which place emphasis on the inherent value of the goal (former) and the autonomy to choose them (latter) as determinants of motivation.

The mechanisms of Values and Committed action also worked to enhance Coherence in MIL. The Narrative Identity Theory (recapped in the Acceptance and Commitment section) additionally asserts that culture plays an important part in one's life story, providing opportunities as well as constraints, supplying one with the structure of a typical life such as the progression of school, work, marriage, family, and retirement milestones (McAdams & Cox, 2010). Culture is woven into how one tells their "life story" of how they came to be who they are and how they will be in the future. These concepts were operationalized by the program's Sessions 6-8, dedicated to Values and Committed Action. Activities such as the "Clarify your values" homework in Session 6, "The smallest thing I can do" homework in Session 7, and "Goal setting" in Session 8 all worked toward creating structure in life, as students looked at the values and goals in the different domains of life relevant to them (i.e., Family relationship and friendship). The coherence or understanding of what is important to them today and what they can

do to build a life congruent with their values is evident in the quotes of Students 3, 6 and 10 provided earlier in this section.

The mechanisms of Values and Committed action also worked to foster Significance in MIL, defined as the “sense of life’s inherent value and having a life worth living” (Martela & Steger, 2016, p. 534), felt when one reflects and evaluates on their life experiences (Martela & Steger, 2016). These two processes worked on fortifying Significance, based on the Terror Management Theory (TMT) (Greenberg et al., 1986) which asserts that humans create and abide to culture to alleviate the fear of death. These cultural worldviews provide standards by which a person can be assessed to have value, and immortality to those who fulfill the standards of value. Particularly relevant to the results of this study is the symbolic immortality humans seek by being valued contributors to the world (Pyszczynski et al., 2015; Solomon et al., 1991). This immortality or significance can be realized via families, fortunes, awards, monuments, memories, or something of the person that can be left behind after they are gone. These concepts were explored in the program’s Sessions 6-8, focused on Values and Committed action.

In Sessions 6-8, students got to identify their core values and set and carry out their value-based goals. However, the “immortality” or Significance derived from exercises like the “Clarify your values” homework in Session 6 and the subsequent goal setting activities in Sessions 7 and 8, were limited. This was because the domains of life of more relevance to the students were those of immediate family relationship and friendship. Irrelevant were the stronger immortality-related domains such as work and romantic/future family relationships. The opportunity for stronger Significance will expand as students enter adulthood and take on more enduring adult roles such as stable work, marriage, and parenthood (Arnett, 2000, 2007, 2015), allowing them to make “valued” contributions that could exist after their own death.

Despite the limited application of Values and Committed action to Significance based on TMT, the two processes had a bigger role in engendering Significance based on more tangible views which assert that Significance is easily found

in everyday life experiences that people deem intrinsically valuable (King & Hicks, 2021). Such experiences could be mattering in relationships (Hill, 2018), loving someone, being enclosed in nature and culture, or simply finding goodness, truth, and beauty in any moment of life (Frankl, 2006). Because these concepts touch upon general social relationships, Significance could be felt in Sessions 6-8, in the more relevant life domains of immediate family relationship and friendship. The emphasis of mattering in relationships can be seen in Student 5's reflection on the "Clarify your values" homework in Session 6 and "Values discussion" activity in Session 7:

*"In the family relationship and friendship life domains, I ticked a lot of similar values. As I was making the check marks, I felt surprised and thought, "Why are so many important values the same?" (Student 5)."*

#### **ACT group mechanisms**

Theoretically, literature endorses ACT's group mechanisms as fundamental to improving MIL. These mechanisms operationalized Significance in MIL according to the Terror Management Theory (TMT) (Greenberg et al., 1986), recapped earlier. TMT further postulates that gaining immortality via worldly achievements valued by society is equated to having robust self-esteem (Solomon et al., 1991). Individuals are so driven to maintain their self-esteem and significance that they consistently seek validation from those who share their worldviews (Pyszczynski et al., 2015). This concept was worked into each session of the ACT program via the ACT group mechanisms which provide endless opportunities for social support and compassion in group ACT (Westrup & Wright, 2017). Because in ACT, everyone is working on being human, group members were able to connect over this shared struggle of being human, going through the same human difficulties, feeling validated and significant.

Evident in Sessions 6-8, rather than having cultural worldviews that were directly related to attaining immortality at this stage of their life, the students were focused on worldviews related to how they had lived their lives up till now. Thus, it was this set of worldviews that students used to evaluate their self-esteem, aided by ACT's group mechanism of compassion and validation. The felt Significance born of



camaraderie and validation is reflected in Student 5's final thoughts during Termination in Session 8:

*“Everyone here has done an amazing job. We have been able to overcome everything and grow into who we are today because of ourselves. We are awesome. I want everyone to be kind to themselves. We may not do as good a job as other people in certain things but know that we are doing our best (Student 5).”*

Furthermore, group ACT mechanisms also worked to strengthen tangible Significance based on the views of King and Hicks (2021), Hill (2018), and Frankl (2006). The mechanisms fostered friendship between students and the feeling of not being alone in life's challenging journey. This sense of relational significance is reflected in Students 3, 7, 10's reflections during Termination in Session 8:

*“...What I really like about all this is the fact that it was a group activity. I was able to listen to other people's stories and problems and notice how everyone had different issues. It made me feel like I was not facing my troubles alone, that I had friends in this mess with me (Student 3).”*

*“We may not talk personally, but we have been here together, we have shared so many stories. I feel close to everyone. You all did very well to overcome all the different life challenges. I would like to keep in touch with everyone if that's alright (Student 7).”*

*“I would like to thank everyone for sharing their life stories. It is not easy to share. You are so brave (Student 10).”*

### **Empirical evidence of ACT on MIL**

Empirically, the positive effect of ACT on MIL, particularly Purpose, is supported by an Iranian study on patients with depression which found ACT to be effective in increasing MIL (Khorani et al., 2020). In the same vein, another study on university students in Turkey reported that ACT-based psychoeducation improved MIL (Seyrek & Ersanli, 2021). Both studies measured their MIL outcome using the MLQ (Steger et al., 2006). As the MLQ is purpose heavy, containing 5 out of 10 items directly



mentioning Purpose, it can be inferred that ACT likely enhanced Purpose. Further affirming the results of this study, is the qualitative research conducted on ACT therapists which revealed that these therapists found ACT to be helpful in alleviating the issue of lack of MIL (Wilms, 2016). These studies provide supportive results for ACT as an effective intervention for engendering MIL generally and most likely in engendering Purpose.

The favorable effect of ACT on Coherence in MIL is supported by a study among patients with multiple sclerosis which reported that ACT effectively enhanced Sense of Coherence (SOC) (Younesi et al., 2020), a closely related construct to Coherence. Further substantiating the significant effect of ACT, another Iranian study that implemented ACT on patients with chronic low back pain, yielded positive results on SOC (Jenaabadi & Hosseini, 2020). The former researchers attributed the improved SOC to the process of Acceptance, while the latter researchers attributed the improved SOC to the process of Committed action, bolstering the theoretical explanation of ACT's impact on MIL, particularly Coherence.

The positive impact of ACT on Significance in MIL is supported by a French study on adult outpatients suffering from suicidal behavior disorder which found that ACT significantly reduced suicidal ideation (Ducasse et al., 2018), a closely related construct to Significance. In line with the current study's results are the affirmative findings of an Iranian study on women with polycystic ovary syndrome which explored the effects of ACT on self-esteem (Moradi et al., 2020), another closely related construct to Significance. This positive result is corroborated by another Iranian study on women post-divorce which found that ACT significantly improved self-esteem (Saadati et al., 2017).

#### **Connections between processes and subconstructs**

It is important to reiterate that although the six core processes of ACT are distinct, they are interrelated (Westrup & Wright, 2017). Likewise, with the subconstructs of MIL, although the subconstructs are distinct, they are closely related

(George & Park, 2016a). These interrelations mean that the ability of or changes in one can influence the ability of or changes in the other.

It is possible that engendering Coherence in MIL, according to the Narrative Identity Theory (McAdams & Cox, 2010), by stringing together life's events into a coherent story, structured by the milestones of school, work, marriage, family, and retirement, could give rise to Purpose; Coherence requires that one thinks deeply about these milestones, giving rise to Purpose, while Purpose, via "Clarify your values" homework and "Goal setting" activities, could enhance Coherence. The theory directly states that our identity is an evolving life story that "provides life with some semblance of unity, purpose, and meaning" (McAdams & Cox, 2010, p. 201) that "makes psychological sense" (p. 191). Thus, Coherence based on the Narrative Identity Theory is tied to Purpose. Furthermore, as Purpose in this program is largely rooted in the relational domains of immediate family relationship and friendship, it is possible that this Purpose, such as being a compassionate child and friend, could engender the Significance felt from mattering in relationships, based on the tangible view of Significance (Hill, 2018).

Researchers further speculate that the three subconstructs could have a synergistic relationship (George & Park, 2016a), providing explanation for the large effect size found in this study. On top of the effects of interrelations, the combined presence of the subconstructs in this study could have intensified the experience of each and the overall MIL construct.

### **Program structure**

#### **Homework between sessions**

The ACT program was structured with homework between sessions which could help explain ACT's strong impact on MIL. A synthesis of literature on the impact of homework on treatment outcome concluded that counseling programs involving homework yielded a greater treatment outcome than counseling programs without homework (Kazantzis & Lampropoulos, 2002). The reviewed evidence attributed this to the fact that homework allows clients to verify their understanding of the session

content and apply session skills to problematic situations in life, promoting continued experiential learning. Meta-analyses further revealed that homework compliance was correlated with positive treatment outcome (Kazantzis et al., 2000; Mausbach et al., 2010). Most of the research presented was of Cognitive Behavior Therapy (CBT), which although is not directly comparable to ACT, is applicable as ACT and CBT have cognitive and behavioral components and stem from Behavioral Therapy.

The positive impact of homework can be seen in the sessions' homework discussion at the beginning of each following session. For instance, in the homework discussion related to Session 6, a student reflected on the insight gained from completing their "Clarify your values" homework:

*"I didn't feel like it was that difficult to choose, but what surprised me was realizing that certain values I thought were way more important to me, upon reflection, were actually not that important. Some of these values did not make the top 3 (Student 3)."*

### **2 sessions per week frequency**

The large effect of ACT on MIL could also be attributed to the program's biweekly session frequency for sessions 3-8. A study analyzing data of over 20,000 university-counseling-center clients across 17 years found that more frequent therapy was associated with faster recovery (Erekson et al., 2015). Despite this being a comparison between weekly and fortnightly session frequency, it nevertheless suggests that receiving more frequent counseling (i.e., counseling at a biweekly frequency) could see clients experiencing positive change sooner. These results are supported by another study that specifically looked at the impact of weekly versus biweekly session frequency. A study of 200 adults with depression in the Netherlands found that patients who received twice weekly sessions of either Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) or Interpersonal Psychotherapy reported significantly decreased depressive symptoms than those who received weekly sessions (Bruijniks et al., 2020). Thus, the ACT program's unintended combination of weekly and biweekly session frequency could

very likely have strengthened the positive impact of ACT on MIL, resulting in significant MIL results with large effect sizes.

### 3. Limitations of study

There are two key limitations to this research study. The first limitation is the issue of imperfect or inconsistent attendance. During the intervention, 2 members missed 2 sessions and 3 members missed 1 session. These were sessions 2 (7/10 attendance), 5 (9/10), 6 (9/10) and 7 (8/10). The lowest percentage of attendance was 80% of sessions. The researcher did their best to ensure that absent members had the most knowledge continuity possible by sharing a summary at the end of sessions with imperfect attendance. Using the LINE group chat, the researcher summarized what was done during the session, the kind of learnings the group experienced, and homework given. Nevertheless, not showing up for the full 8 sessions impacted the absent member's learning and transformation, particularly with later sessions being harder to grasp. Thus, it is likely that the 5 members' inconsistent attendance negatively impacted their MIL scores. This is in line with results from a study of over 10,000 clients at a university counseling center which found that clients with highly consistent attendance exhibited greater positive change in each session than those with highly inconsistent attendance (Zimmerman, 2019). Knowing the potential for non-attendance, the researcher had tried to maximize attendance by implementing financial incentives based on full attendance, as well as session reminders that were sent 1 day in advance. The use of incentives to improve attendance is supported by a meta-analysis study which found that financial incentives not only significantly increased treatment attendance but also significantly increased treatment goal completion such as completing homework (Khazanov et al., 2022). Despite turnout being an uncontrollable factor, more could have been done to achieve perfect attendance. Specifically, the researcher could have set stricter terms during ground rule discussion in Session 1, emphasizing the requirement of 100% attendance and the agreement to inform the

researcher 1 day in advance of session if the member is unable to attend so that the session could be re-scheduled.

The second limitation is the participant recruitment delay and difficulty. It is important to remark that the group counseling had an intended start date for mid-January 2023 and intended finish date for mid-March 2023. However, the researcher ran into recruitment delays (i.e., recruitment took 2 months instead of 1), leading to the delayed start and finish date that coincided with mid-terms and finals (late February to early April 2023). To minimize this limitation, the researcher could have contacted general education professors with direct access to all students at the outset, which is what the researcher did later (i.e., approached professors who taught at the Learning Tower), as opposed to solely recruiting from individual faculties via official protocol (i.e., requesting permission at different faculties' dean office for a physical poster to be put up on activity board). The delayed recruitment led to the revised program design of mixed weekly and biweekly counseling sessions. Nevertheless, as covered in the discussion section, it was possible that the biweekly frequency may have produced an unexpected, positive effect of further strengthening MIL levels (Bruijniks et al., 2020; Erekson et al., 2015).

#### **4. Recommendations**

The recommendations of this study are divided into recommendations for practice and recommendations for further research.

##### **4.1. Recommendations for practice**

###### **Key recommendations for practice**

The key recommendations for practice are those that specifically focus on improving the ACT implementation to better impact MIL. The first key recommendation for practice is ensuring the ACT counselor's professional competence. Counselors, including those in training, must undergo ACT-specific training. Moreover, counselors should study available material on ACT including but not limited to books, podcasts, and videos to understand the therapy from different experts and perspectives. At the same

time, counselors must have knowledge of MIL and therefore, should review related literature on the construct and its three dimensions. This will ensure that the counselor is competent to design and implement the ACT intervention aimed at enhancing MIL.

The second key recommendation is adjusting the ACT program's structure and techniques to accommodate cultural differences between western participants and Thai participants. This can enhance the quality of discussions and learnings during ACT processes, particularly during later sessions, leading to greater impact on MIL. Culturally, Asian students are more reserved, respectful, and non-confrontational than their Western counterparts. Thus, more time in session is likely required to accommodate the gradual starting of discussions due to relatively higher, culturally ingrained reluctance to engage. There are two sub-recommendations for program adjustment.

One, researchers could modify the program by extending session duration. Looking at this study's intervention, Sessions 1 to 4 went at a much slower pace and had ample time for sharing and lulls than remaining sessions. Concepts, activities, and homework overlapped, leading to repetition, deep understanding, and proper grasp of skills. Sessions 5 to 8 had more time-consuming activities and therefore, required self-initiated and quicker-paced engagement for sessions to run within the planned duration. Although Session 5 did not achieve the same level of discussion, it worked on similar skills as previous sessions, therefore members already had solid understanding of the material. Conversely, for sessions 6-8, the concept of values was completely new to members and most had difficulty brainstorming commitments and setting goals, necessitating active questioning and discussion. Reluctance meant discussion was even more limited under tight time constraints. Thus, it is recommended that more time be given to administer Sessions 5 to 8. Researchers may look into increasing the duration of these sessions to 2.5-3 hours with a break scheduled at the halfway mark. Alternatively, an additional session to wrap up the group counseling, separate from Session 8, could also be implemented to dedicate the entirety of session 8 to goal

setting. This would provide more opportunity for sharing (from both vocal and quiet members), leading to clarity and thus, more impact on MIL.

The second sub-recommendation, as opposed to extending session duration or the number of sessions, is reducing group size. Evidently, 90-minute sessions were not sufficient for an 8-10-member group to properly engage in all activities, particularly in Sessions 5-8, leading to limited sharing and reflection in each activity, especially the activity of reflecting on homework at the beginning of each session. Hence, instead of 10 members, it is recommended that the group size be reduced to 6 members, same as the try-out sample, to allow for more opportunities to share and reflect.

The third and final key recommendation for practice is providing session summaries. It is recommended that the researcher or counselor provide session summaries of key activities and learnings at the end of all sessions and not just sessions with imperfect attendance. This will reinforce the understanding of ACT skills for those that attended and fill in the gaps for those that missed the session. These summaries will be particularly impactful for later sessions with more difficult concepts. Additionally, similar to what was implemented in this study, researchers are encouraged to repeat learnings from the previous session at the beginning of each new session and repeat all learnings whenever applicable during each session. This will create continuity and reinforce skills and understanding of concepts required for MIL to flourish.

#### **Additional recommendations for practice**

The additional recommendations for practice are those that the researcher believes can help improve the overall research process. The first additional recommendation for practice is to plan out the recruitment process well in advance to optimize recruitment of the research sample. It is recommended that researchers study the academic calendar of their first-year student participants. To err on the side of caution, they should allow at least 2 months for recruitment and factor this in their intervention schedule. This is so the intervention after recruitment may run according to schedule, considering exams and breaks. As intimated, if relevant, researchers should



contact professors of general education to gain direct access to first-year university students from all faculties, as opposed to contacting the dean's office of individual faculties. It is also recommended that during recruitment via Google form, researchers inform results to those who applied to participate but did not pass the study criteria, as done in this study. This maximizes the ethical adherence of the researcher and the study.

The second additional recommendation for practice is employing different techniques to maximize attendance. As implemented in this study, researchers are recommended to provide incentives for full attendance. Researchers are also advised to send a session reminder 1 day in advance of the session to ensure maximum attendance and to properly manage expectations of attendance. Researchers may also set stricter ground rules that are agreed upon by all members during Session 1. To establish expectation of 100% attendance, researchers could officially ask members to inform of non-attendance 1 day ahead so that the affected session could be re-scheduled.

#### **4.2. Recommendations for further research**

The first recommendation for further research is to conduct a replication study on a larger scale. Researchers could recruit more first-year participants to explore the effects of ACT on the different dimensions of the tripartite MIL construct, employing more advanced statistics. Results at pre-test will allow the researcher to identify which subconstruct the sample performs lowest and highest on. Results at post-test will shed light on ACT's level of impact on the individual subconstructs, adding to the scarce literature on the effects of mindfulness-based therapy on the subconstructs of Coherence and Significance.

The second recommendation is to conduct a follow-up study. Researchers may add a follow-up phase to the study to determine if the effects of ACT last over time. One angle of doing so would be to implement follow-up tests at the end of each academic year until the last year of university. If the effects of ACT were held over time,

this would fortify the impact of ACT on MIL and allow universities to prioritize the intervention for their first-year students.

Thirdly, researchers may choose to explore the differences in program format and structure to determine more effective alternatives and help optimize the program. One variable to manipulate could be the semester timing of the intervention. Researchers could conduct the study during the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> semesters of the first year of university to compare the effect size and determine which academic period allows ACT to have more impact on MIL. Additionally, researchers could also influence the delivery format to compare the effectiveness of running ACT online versus offline. Knowledge of which format is more effective will give universities the freedom to decide on the format that is more cost efficient and fits better with the curriculum. Another variable to look at would be the different timing of the day. Researchers may conduct the study during the morning versus the evening to discern whether there is a significant difference between the two. Results could inform practitioners of the more optimal timing, allowing them to better design and implement the program as part of the university curriculum. Alternatively, researchers could manipulate the frequency of sessions. As the program in this study had a combination of weekly and biweekly session frequency, researchers may seek to deliver the program on weekly versus biweekly basis to compare whether there are differences in effectiveness. If biweekly results yield a higher effect size, there would be evidence to administer the intervention at a biweekly frequency for highest resource efficiency and reduced risks to participants.

The last recommendation for further research is to conduct the study with final year students. Research shows that final year university students experience high anxiety as they approach another turning point in life (Keane et al., 2021). It may be worthwhile to implement ACT for this population to prepare them for the uncertainty and challenges that the transition will bring.

## 5. Conclusion

The purpose of this pre-test post-test quasi-experimental controlled study was to determine the effects of ACT on MIL among first-year university students. The study found that (1) students who participated in ACT had significantly higher MIL than before participating in ACT and (2) students who participated in ACT had significantly higher MIL than those who did not participate in ACT. These results support the direction of recent research interest, pointing to the effectiveness of mindfulness-based therapy on MIL. Despite the limitations, the present study contributes to filling the current research gap by illustrating that ACT, a well-known mindfulness-based therapy, was effective in increasing MIL as defined by the contemporary tripartite MIL model. This study has demonstrated the viability of ACT as an intervention for first-year university students with low MIL, able to be administered by counselors-in-training. Universities now have access to an ACT for MIL protocol to adopt and adapt as part of their mental health promotion and prevention program and have the expanded choice of appointing counseling professionals or counselors-in-training to carry out the intervention. The result is increased counseling accessibility for students with low MIL.

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**APPENDICES**

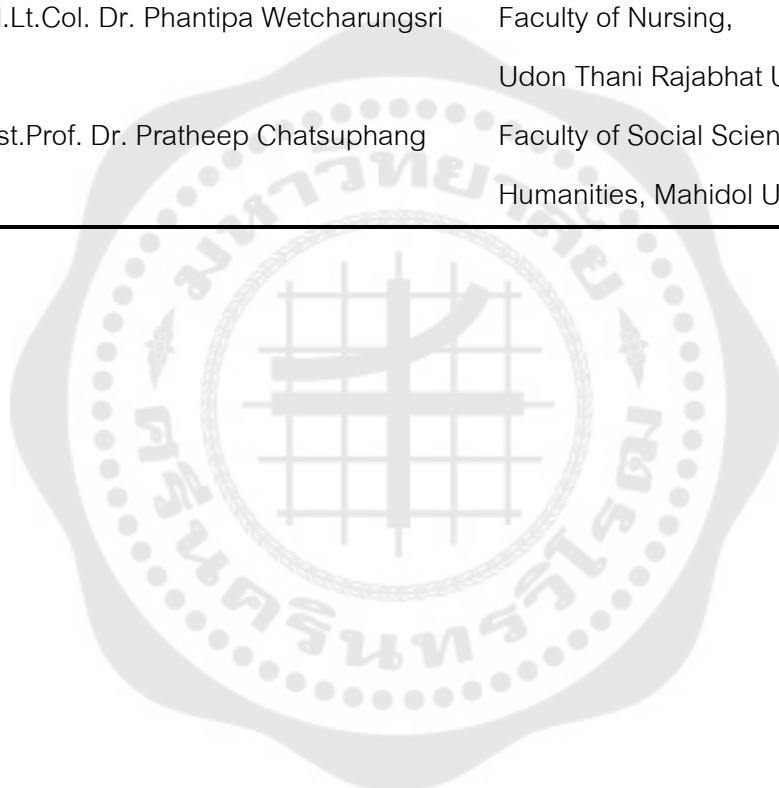


**Appendix A**

Names of subject matter experts involved in reviewing the Tripartite Meaning in Life Scale and ACT counseling program

Table 13 Names of subject matter experts involved in reviewing the TMLS and ACT program

| No. | Name                                   | Department,<br>University  |
|-----|--|--|
| 1   | Dr. Saranyu Pongprasertsin             | Office of Academic Affairs,<br>Saengtham College                 |
| 2   | Pol.Lt.Col. Dr. Phantipa Wetcharungsri | Faculty of Nursing,<br>Udon Thani Rajabhat University            |
| 3   | Asst.Prof. Dr. Pratheep Chatsuphang    | Faculty of Social Sciences and<br>Humanities, Mahidol University |





Appendix B

Ethics training certificate, Ethics approval documents, ACT course certificates, Subject matter expert invitation letters, Data collection request letter

  
**สถาบันยุทธศาสตร์  
ทางปัญญาและวิจัย**  
มหาวิทยาลัยศรีนครินทรวิโรฒ

สถาบันยุทธศาสตร์ทางปัญญาและวิจัย  
โดยคณะกรรมการจริยธรรมสำหรับพิจารณาโครงการวิจัยที่ทำในมนุษย์ มหาวิทยาลัยศรีนครินทรวิโรฒ

**ประกาศนียบัตรฉบับนี้ให้ไว้เพื่อแสดงว่า**

**สีลานุช หาพัฒนาพงษ์**

ได้ผ่านการฝึกอบรมโครงการจริยธรรมการวิจัยในมนุษย์ และการประชุมผ่านสื่ออิเล็กทรอนิกส์  
เรื่อง “หลักจริยธรรมการวิจัยในมนุษย์”  
(Ethical Principle to Research Involving Human Subject)  
วันที่ 2 กรกฎาคม 2564

วันที่ออกใบประกาศ (02/07/2564)

วันที่ไปประกาศตนตอฯ (02/07/2567)

  
(ผู้ช่วยศาสตราจารย์ ดร.ปฐมทัศน์ จิระเดชะ)  
ผู้อำนวยการ สถาบันยุทธศาสตร์ทางปัญญาและวิจัย  
มหาวิทยาลัยศรีนครินทรวิโรฒ

  
(แพทย์หญิงสุวิพร ภัทรสุวรรณ)  
ประธานคณะกรรมการจริยธรรมสำหรับพิจารณาโครงการวิจัยที่ทำในมนุษย์  
มหาวิทยาลัยศรีนครินทรวิโรฒ

Figure 5 Ethics training certificate



หนังสือรับรองจริยธรรมการวิจัยของข้อเสนอการวิจัย  
เอกสารข้อมูลคำอธิบายสำหรับผู้เข้าร่วมการวิจัยและใบยินยอม

หมายเลขข้อเสนอการวิจัย SWUEC-G- 121/2565E

ข้อเสนอการวิจัยนี้และเอกสารประกอบของข้อเสนอการวิจัยตามรายการแสดงด้านล่าง ได้รับการพิจารณาจาก คณะกรรมการจริยธรรมสำหรับพิจารณาโครงการวิจัยที่ทำในมนุษย์ มหาวิทยาลัยศรีนครินทรวิโรฒแล้ว คณะกรรมการฯ มีความเห็นว่าข้อเสนอการวิจัยที่จะดำเนินการมีความสอดคล้องกับหลักจริยธรรมสากล ตลอดจนกฎหมาย ข้อบังคับและ ข้อกำหนดภายในประเทศ จึงเห็นสมควรให้ดำเนินการวิจัยตามข้อเสนอการวิจัยนี้ได้

ชื่อโครงการวิจัยเรื่อง: ผลของการบำบัดด้วยการยอมรับและพันธสัญญาต่อความหมายในชีวิตของนักศึกษา มหาวิทยาลัยชั้นปีที่ 1

ชื่อผู้วิจัยหลัก: นางสาว สีลาบุษ หาดผพงษ์

สังกัด: บัณฑิตวิทยาลัย

เอกสารที่รับรอง:

1. แบบเสนอโครงการวิจัย
2. โครงการวิจัย
3. เอกสารชี้แจงผู้เข้าร่วมการวิจัย
4. หนังสือให้ความยินยอมเข้าร่วมโครงการวิจัย

เอกสารที่พิจารณาทบทวน

- |   |                                       |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| 1. แบบเสนอโครงการวิจัย                      | ฉบับที่ 2 วัน/เดือน/ปี 15 มีนาคม 2565 |
| 2. โครงร่างการวิจัย                         | ฉบับที่ 2 วัน/เดือน/ปี 15 มีนาคม 2565 |
| 3. เอกสารชี้แจงผู้เข้าร่วมการวิจัย          | ฉบับที่ 2 วัน/เดือน/ปี 15 มีนาคม 2565 |
| 4. หนังสือให้ความยินยอมเข้าร่วมโครงการวิจัย | ฉบับที่ 2 วัน/เดือน/ปี 15 มีนาคม 2565 |

(ลงชื่อ).....

(ผู้ช่วยศาสตราจารย์ ดร.ทันตแพทย์หญิงณปภา เอี่ยมจิตรกุล)

กรรมการและเลขานุการคณะกรรมการจริยธรรมสำหรับพิจารณาโครงการวิจัยที่ทำในมนุษย์

(ลงชื่อ).....

(แพทย์หญิงสุรีพร ภัทรสุวรรณ)

ประธานคณะกรรมการจริยธรรมสำหรับพิจารณาโครงการวิจัยที่ทำในมนุษย์

หมายเลขรับรอง : SWUEC/E/G-121/2565

วันที่ให้การรับรอง : 15/03/2565

วันหมดอายุใบรับรอง : 15/03/2566

Figure 6 Ethics approval documents



ที่ อว 8718/

มหาวิทยาลัยศรีนครินทรวิโรฒ  
สุขุมวิท 23 กรุงเทพฯ 10110

15 มีนาคม 2565

เรื่อง ขอแจ้งผลการพิจารณาโครงการวิจัยเลขที่ SWUEC-G- 121/2565E

เรียน นางสาว สีสานุช หาพุดมพงษ์

สิ่งที่ส่งมาด้วย ใบรับรองโครงการวิจัย SWUEC/E/G-121/2565

ตามที่ท่านได้ส่งโครงการวิจัยเรื่อง ผลของการบำบัดด้วยการยอมรับและทัศนศึกษาต่อความหมายในชีวิตของ นักศึกษามหาวิทยาลัยชั้นปีที่ 1 โครงการวิจัยเลขที่ SWUEC-G 121/2565E เพื่อรับการพิจารณาจากคณะกรรมการจริยธรรม สำหรับพิจารณาโครงการวิจัยที่ทำในมนุษย์ นั้น

คณะกรรมการจริยธรรมสำหรับพิจารณาโครงการวิจัยที่ทำในมนุษย์ ได้พิจารณาโครงการวิจัยดังกล่าว บัดนี้ คณะกรรมการฯ ให้การรับรองโครงการวิจัยดังกล่าวแล้วเมื่อวันที่ 15 มีนาคม 2565 รายละเอียดดังนี้

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| Certificate Number | SWUEC/E/G-121/2565   |
| Date of Approval   | 15 มีนาคม 2565 (อายุใบรับรองโครงการวิจัย 12 เดือน)             |
| Date of Expiration | 15 มีนาคม 2566   |
| Continuing Review  | ทุก 12 เดือน (ครบกำหนดส่งรายงานครั้งแรก วันที่ 15 มีนาคม 2566) |

ในการนี้ คณะกรรมการจริยธรรมสำหรับพิจารณาโครงการวิจัยที่ทำในมนุษย์ ขอความกรุณาให้ผู้วิจัย ส่งรายงานความก้าวหน้าของกรวิจัยและต่ออายุการรับรองก่อนกำหนดวันหมดอายุ 30 วัน เพื่อให้เป็นไปตามวิธีดำเนินการ มาตรฐาน (SOPs version 2.0) ของคณะกรรมการฯ ทั้งนี้รายละเอียดของเอกสารที่ให้การรับรองตามที่ปรากฏใน Certificate of Approval (Certificate Number SWUEC/E/G-121/2565) ที่แนบมาพร้อมนี้

จึงเรียนมาเพื่อโปรดทราบและดำเนินการต่อไป

ขอแสดงความนับถือ

(แพทย์หญิงสุรีพร ภัทรสุวรรณ)

ประธานคณะกรรมการจริยธรรมสำหรับพิจารณาโครงการวิจัยที่ทำในมนุษย์

บัณฑิตวิทยาลัย  
มหาวิทยาลัยศรีนครินทรวิโรฒ  
โทรศัพท์ 0-2649-5000 ต่อ 12430  
โทรสาร 0-2259-1822

Figure 6 Ethics approval documents (cont'd)





MF-04-version-2.0  
วันที่ 18 ต.ค. 61

**ใบรับรองจริยธรรมการวิจัยของข้อเสนอการวิจัย**  
**เอกสารข้อมูลคำอธิบายสำหรับผู้เข้าร่วมการวิจัยและยินยอม**

หมายเลขข้อเสนอการวิจัย SWUEC-G121/2565E (ต่อใบรับรองครั้งที่ 1)

ข้อเสนอการวิจัยนี้และเอกสารประกอบของข้อเสนอการวิจัยตามรายการแสดงด้านล่าง ได้รับการพิจารณาจาก คณะกรรมการจริยธรรมสำหรับพิจารณาโครงการวิจัยที่ทำในมนุษย์ มหาวิทยาลัยศรีนครินทรวิโรฒแล้ว คณะกรรมการฯ มีความเห็นว่าข้อเสนอการวิจัยที่ดำเนินการมีความสอดคล้องกับหลักจริยธรรมสากล ตลอดจนกฎหมาย ข้อบังคับและ ข้อกำหนดภายในประเทศ จึงเห็นสมควรให้ดำเนินการวิจัยตามข้อเสนอการวิจัยนี้ได้

**ชื่อโครงการวิจัยเรื่อง :** ผลของการบำบัดด้วยการยอมรับและพันธสัญญาต่อความหมายในชีวิต  
ของนักศึกษามหาวิทยาลัยชั้นปีที่ 1

**ชื่อผู้วิจัยหลัก :** นางสาวลีลา นุช หาพุดพงษ์

**สังกัด :** บัณฑิตวิทยาลัย มหาวิทยาลัยศรีนครินทรวิโรฒ

**เอกสารที่เสนอพิจารณาทบทวน :**  
แบบรายงานความก้าวหน้าของการวิจัย เพื่อขอตีอายุการรับรอง ฉบับลงวันที่ 15 กุมภาพันธ์ 2566

**วันที่ประชุม :** 15 มีนาคม 2566      การประชุมครั้งที่ : 3/2566

**ผลการพิจารณา :** รับรอง

**ข้อเสนอแนะ :**

- โปรดปฏิบัติตามแนวปฏิบัติการดำเนินงาน โครงการวิจัยในมนุษย์ช่วงที่มีภาวะระบาดของโรค ติดเชื้อไวรัสโคโรนาสายพันธุ์ใหม่ 2019 (COV/D-19)

(ลงชื่อ).....  
(ผู้ช่วยศาสตราจารย์ ดร. ทนตแพทย์หญิงณปภา เอี่ยมจิรกุล)  
กรรมการและเลขานุการคณะกรรมการจริยธรรมสำหรับพิจารณาโครงการวิจัยที่ทำในมนุษย์

(ลงชื่อ).....  
(แพทย์หญิงสุรพร ภัทรสุวรรณ)  
ประธานคณะกรรมการจริยธรรมสำหรับพิจารณาโครงการวิจัยที่ทำในมนุษย์

หมายเลขรับรอง : SWUEC/E/G-121/2565  
วันที่ให้การรับรอง : 16/03/2566  
วันหมดอายุใบรับรอง : 15/03/2567

Figure 6 Ethics approval documents (cont'd)



Certificate no: UC-87cacfa-2e97-41d0-bbd7-f23290ad0f23  
Certificate uri: ude.my/UC-87cacfa-2e97-41d0-bbd7-f23290ad0f23  
Reference Number: 0004

CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION

# Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT) - ACCREDITED CERT

Instructors **Elmira Strange, MPhil, Dip**

**Leelanuch Haputpong**

Date **Aug. 14, 2022**  
Length **6.5 total hours**

Figure 7 ACT course certificates



Figure 7 ACT course certificates (cont'd)



ที่ อว 8718/2587

บัณฑิตวิทยาลัย มหาวิทยาลัยศรีนครินทรวิโรฒ  
114 สุขุมวิท 23 แขวงคลองเตยเหนือ  
เขตวัฒนา กรุงเทพฯ 10110

20 ตุลาคม 2565

เรื่อง ขอความอนุเคราะห์เชิญเป็นผู้ทรงคุณวุฒิ

เรียน ผู้อำนวยการสำนักงานวิชาการ วิทยาลัยแสงธรรม

เนื่องด้วย นางสาวลีลานุช หาพุดพงษ์ นิสิตระดับปริญญาโท สาขาวิชาจิตวิทยาประยุกต์ มหาวิทยาลัยศรีนครินทรวิโรฒ ได้รับอนุมัติให้ทำปริญญาโท เรื่อง “ผลของการบำบัดด้วยการยอมรับและพันธสัญญาต่อความหมายในชีวิตของนักศึกษามหาวิทยาลัยชั้นปีที่ 1” โดยมี ผู้ช่วยศาสตราจารย์ ดร.จิตรา คุณภูมิเมธา เป็นอาจารย์ที่ปรึกษาปริญญาโท

ในการนี้ บัณฑิตวิทยาลัยขอเรียนเชิญ ท่าน เป็นผู้ทรงคุณวุฒิ ในหัวข้อ เรื่อง “ผลของการบำบัดด้วยการยอมรับและพันธสัญญาต่อความหมายในชีวิตของนักศึกษามหาวิทยาลัยชั้นปีที่ 1” ทั้งนี้ นิสิตได้ติดต่อประสานงานเบื้องต้นกับท่านแล้ว และจะประสานงานในรายละเอียดดังกล่าวต่อไป

จึงเรียนมาเพื่อขอความอนุเคราะห์เป็นผู้ทรงคุณวุฒิ ให้ นางสาวลีลานุช หาพุดพงษ์ และขอขอบพระคุณมา ณ โอกาสนี้

ขอแสดงความนับถือ

(รองศาสตราจารย์ นายแพทย์ฉัตรชัย เอกปัญญาสกุล)

คณบดีบัณฑิตวิทยาลัย

สำนักงานคณบดีบัณฑิตวิทยาลัย

โทร. 0 2649 5064

หมายเหตุ : สอบถามข้อมูลเพิ่มเติมกรุณาติดต่อ นิสิต โทรศัพท์ 089 125 6204

Figure 8 Subject matter expert invitation letters

ที่ อว 8718/2587



บัณฑิตวิทยาลัย มหาวิทยาลัยศรีนครินทรวิโรฒ  
114 สุขุมวิท 23 แขวงคลองเตยเหนือ  
เขตวัฒนา กรุงเทพฯ 10110

20 ตุลาคม 2565

เรื่อง ขอความอนุเคราะห์เชิญบุคลากรในสังกัดเป็นผู้ทรงคุณวุฒิ

เรียน คณบดีคณะพยาบาลศาสตร์ มหาวิทยาลัยราชภัฏอุตรธานี

เนื่องด้วย นางสาวลีลานุช หาพุดพงษ์ นิสิตระดับปริญญาโท สาขาวิชาจิตวิทยาประยุกต์ มหาวิทยาลัยศรีนครินทรวิโรฒ ได้รับอนุมัติให้ทำปริญญาโท เรื่อง “ผลของการบำบัดด้วยการยอมรับและพันธสัญญาต่อความหมายในชีวิตของนักศึกษามหาวิทยาลัยชั้นปีที่ 1” โดยมี ผู้ช่วยศาสตราจารย์ ดร.จิตรา คุชฎิเมธา เป็นอาจารย์ที่ปรึกษาปริญญาโท

ในการนี้ บัณฑิตวิทยาลัยขอเรียนเชิญ พันตำรวจโทหญิง ดร.พรรณทิพา เวชรังษี เป็นผู้ทรงคุณวุฒิ ในหัวข้อ เรื่อง “ผลของการบำบัดด้วยการยอมรับและพันธสัญญาต่อความหมายในชีวิตของนักศึกษามหาวิทยาลัยชั้นปีที่ 1” ทั้งนี้ นิสิตได้ติดต่อประสานงานเบื้องต้นกับบุคลากรของท่านแล้ว และจะประสานงานในรายละเอียดดังกล่าวต่อไป

จึงเรียนมาเพื่อขอความอนุเคราะห์บุคลากรในสังกัดเป็นผู้ทรงคุณวุฒิ ให้ นางสาวลีลานุช หาพุดพงษ์ และขอขอบพระคุณมา ณ โอกาสนี้

ขอแสดงความนับถือ

(รองศาสตราจารย์ นายแพทย์ฉัตรชัย เอกปัญญาสกุล)

คณบดีบัณฑิตวิทยาลัย

สำนักงานคณบดีบัณฑิตวิทยาลัย

โทร. 0 2649 5064

หมายเหตุ : สอบถามข้อมูลเพิ่มเติมกรุณาติดต่อ นิสิต โทรศัพท์ 089 125 6204

Figure 8. Subject matter expert invitation letters (cont'd)



ที่ อว 8718/2719



บัณฑิตวิทยาลัยมหาวิทยาลัยศรีนครินทรวิโรฒ  
114 สุขุมวิท 23 แขวงคลองเตยเหนือ  
เขตวัฒนา กรุงเทพฯ 10110

4 พฤศจิกายน 2565

เรื่อง ขอความอนุเคราะห์เชิญเป็นผู้ทรงคุณวุฒิ

เรียน รองคณบดีฝ่ายการศึกษาและนวัตกรรมการเรียนรู้ มหาวิทยาลัยมหิดล

เนื่องด้วย นางสาวลีลานุช หาพุดพงษ์ นิสิตระดับปริญญาโท สาขาวิชาจิตวิทยาประยุกต์ มหาวิทยาลัยศรีนครินทรวิโรฒ ได้รับอนุมัติให้ทำปริญญาานิพนธ์ เรื่อง “ผลของการบำบัดด้วยการยอมรับและพันธสัญญาต่อความหมายในชีวิตของนักศึกษามหาวิทยาลัยชั้นปีที่ 1” โดยมี ผู้ช่วยศาสตราจารย์ ดร.จิตรา สุขภูเฒธา เป็นอาจารย์ที่ปรึกษาปริญญาานิพนธ์

ในการนี้ บัณฑิตวิทยาลัยขอเรียนเชิญ ท่าน เป็นผู้ทรงคุณวุฒิ ในหัวข้อ เรื่อง “ผลของการบำบัดด้วยการยอมรับและพันธสัญญาต่อความหมายในชีวิตของนักศึกษามหาวิทยาลัยชั้นปีที่ 1” ทั้งนี้ นิสิตได้ติดต่อประสานงานเบื้องต้นกับท่านแล้ว และจะประสานงานในรายละเอียดดังกล่าวต่อไป

จึงเรียนมาเพื่อขอความอนุเคราะห์เป็นผู้ทรงคุณวุฒิ ให้ นางสาวลีลานุช หาพุดพงษ์ และขอขอบพระคุณมา ณ โอกาสนี้

ขอแสดงความนับถือ

(ผู้ช่วยศาสตราจารย์ ดร.จิตรา ศรีสังข์)

รองคณบดีฝ่ายวิชาการ รักษาการแทน

คณบดีบัณฑิตวิทยาลัย

สำนักงานคณบดีบัณฑิตวิทยาลัย

โทร. 0 2649 5064

หมายเหตุ : สอบถามข้อมูลเพิ่มเติมกรุณาติดต่อ นิสิต โทรศัพท์ 089 125 6204

Figure 8 Subject matter expert invitation letters (cont'd)



## บันทึกข้อความ

**ส่วนงาน** งานบริหารและธุรการ บัณฑิตวิทยาลัย โทร. 15644

**ที่** อว 8718.1/2983

**วันที่** 28 พฤศจิกายน 2565

**เรื่อง** ขอความอนุเคราะห์เก็บข้อมูลเพื่อการวิจัย

**เรียน** คณบดีวิทยาลัยนวัตกรรมการสื่อสารสังคม มหาวิทยาลัยศรีนครินทรวิโรฒ

เนื่องด้วย นางสาวลีลานุช หาพุดพงษ์ นิสิตระดับปริญญาโท สาขาวิชาจิตวิทยาประยุกต์ มหาวิทยาลัยศรีนครินทรวิโรฒ ได้รับอนุมัติให้ทำปริญญาานิพนธ์ เรื่อง “ผลของการบำบัดด้วยการยอมรับและพันธสัญญาต่อความหมายในชีวิตของนักศึกษามหาวิทยาลัยชั้นปีที่ 1” โดยมี ผู้ช่วยศาสตราจารย์ ดร.จิตรา ดุษฎีเมธา เป็นอาจารย์ที่ปรึกษาปริญญาานิพนธ์

ในการนี้ นิสิตขอความอนุเคราะห์ประชาสัมพันธ์นักศึกษามหาวิทยาลัยชั้นปีที่ 1 เข้าร่วมโปรแกรมการปรึกษากลุ่มโดยการบำบัดด้วยการยอมรับและพันธสัญญาต่อความหมายในชีวิตของนักศึกษามหาวิทยาลัยชั้นปีที่ 1 ผ่านระบบออนไลน์ จำนวน 8 ครั้ง ครั้งละ 90 นาที และเก็บข้อมูลผ่าน Google Forms โดยใช้แบบวัดความหมายในชีวิตของนักศึกษามหาวิทยาลัยชั้นปีที่ 1 กับ นักศึกษาปริญญาตรี ชั้นปีที่ 1 ทุกสาขาวิชา จำนวน 36 คน เพื่อเป็นข้อมูลในการวิจัย ระหว่างเดือนมกราคม 2566 ถึงเดือนมีนาคม 2566 เพื่อเป็นข้อมูลในการวิจัย ทั้งนี้ นิสิตจะเป็นผู้ประสานงานในรายละเอียดดังกล่าวต่อไป สามารถสอบถามข้อมูลเพิ่มเติมได้ที่ โทร. 089 125 6204

จึงเรียนมาเพื่อโปรดพิจารณาขอความอนุเคราะห์ และขอขอบพระคุณมา ณ โอกาสนี้

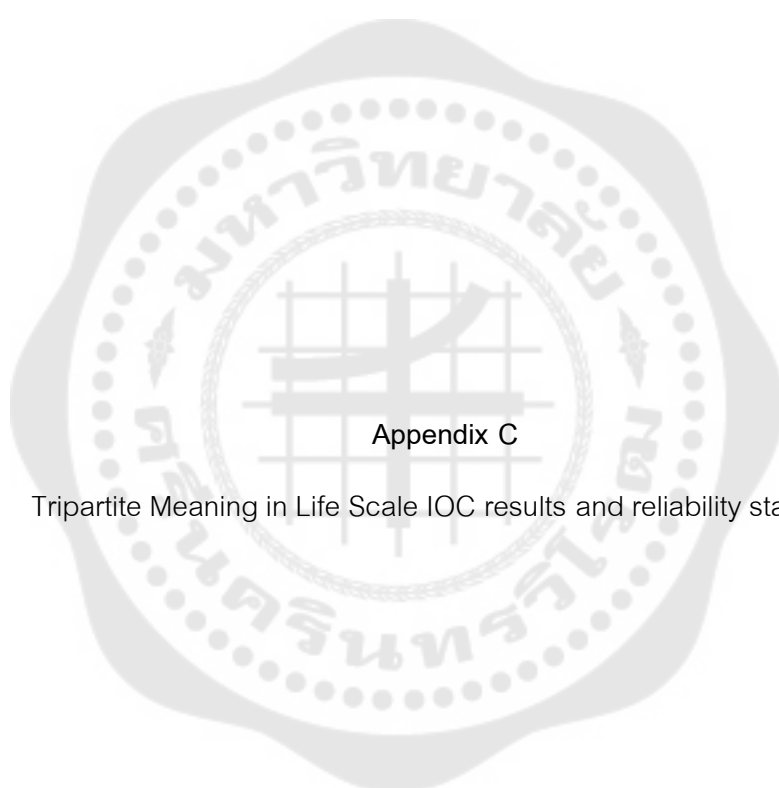
(ผู้ช่วยศาสตราจารย์ ดร.วราภรณ์ วิทยานนท์)

รองคณบดีฝ่ายเทคโนโลยีดิจิทัล

รักษาการแทนคณบดีบัณฑิตวิทยาลัย

Figure 9 Data collection request letter





Appendix C

Tripartite Meaning in Life Scale IOC results and reliability statistics

Table 14 Index of Item-Objective Congruence (IOC) of the original 24-item TMLS

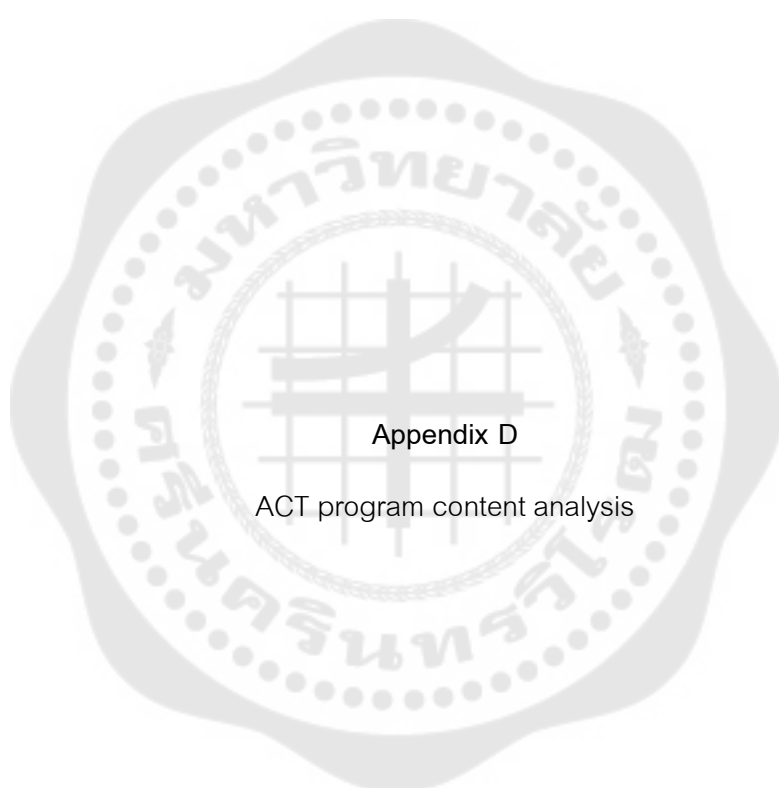
| No.                | Item   | Rating |     |     | IOC  | Interpretation      |
|--------------------|--|--------|-----|-----|------|---------------------|
|                    |  | SME    | SME | SME |      |                     |
|                    |  | 1      | 2   | 3   |      |                     |
| Coherence subscale |  |        |     |     |      |                     |
| 1                  | When going through a life change, I take time to understand that change.               | 1      | 1   | 1   | 1    | Include (fine-tune) |
| 2                  | I can accept the uncertainties in my life.   | 1      | 1   | 1   | 1    | Include             |
| 3                  | I believe that I can overcome obstacles in life.                                       | 1      | 1   | 1   | 1    | Include (fine-tune) |
| 4                  | I self-reflect on the things that happen in my life.                                   | 1      | 1   | 1   | 1    | Include             |
| 5                  | I can tell what my identity is.  | 1      | 1   | 1   | 1    | Include (fine-tune) |
| 6                  | I have not found my identity.  | 0      | 1   | 1   | 0.67 | Include (fine-tune) |
| 7                  | When problems arise in life, I extract life lessons from them for myself.              | 1      | 1   | 1   | 1    | Include             |
| 8                  | I view my life as very chaotic.  | 0      | 1   | 0   | 0.33 | Amend               |
| Purpose subscale   |  |        |     |     |      |                     |
| 9                  | I have goals in life that are of value to me.  | 1      | 1   | 1   | 1    | Include             |
| 10                 | I am living my life according to the vision I have drawn.                              | 1      | 1   | 1   | 1    | Include (fine-tune) |
| 11                 | I know what I have to do to reach my goals.  | 1      | 1   | 1   | 1    | Include             |
| 12                 | I put my heart and soul into pursuing my goals.  | 1      | 1   | 1   | 1    | Include             |
| 13                 | I procrastinate taking action to reach my goals.                                       | 1      | 0   | 1   | 0.67 | Include (fine-tune) |
| 14                 | I am motivated to achieve my goals.  | 1      | 1   | 1   | 1    | Include             |
| 15                 | I periodically assess myself to see whether the values I hold in my life have changed. | 1      | 1   | 1   | 1    | Include             |
| 16                 | I am ready to adjust my goals to align   | 1      | 1   | 1   | 1    | Include             |

| No.                   | Item  | Rating |     |     | IOC  | Interpretation      |
|-----------------------|---|--------|-----|-----|------|---------------------|
|                       |   | SME    | SME | SME |      |                     |
|                       |   | 1      | 2   | 3   |      |                     |
|                       | them with the values I live by in life.         |        |     |     |      |                     |
| Significance subscale |   |        |     |     |      |                     |
| 17                    | I feel valued when I do something well.         | -1     | 1   | 1   | 0.33 | Amend               |
| 18                    | I like that I can live my life the way I want.  | 1      | 1   | 1   | 1    | Include             |
| 19                    | I have beliefs that guide how I live my life.   | 1      | 1   | 0   | 0.67 | Include (fine-tune) |
| 20                    | I believe that what I do contributes to others. | 1      | 1   | 1   | 1    | Include (fine-tune) |
| 21                    | I feel like I am valued in the eyes of others.  | 0      | 1   | 1   | 0.67 | Include (fine-tune) |
| 22                    | The people around me value me.                  | 0      | 1   | 1   | 0.67 | Include (fine-tune) |
| 23                    | I enjoy living every day.                       | 1      | 1   | 1   | 1    | Include (fine-tune) |
| 24                    | I feel that my day-to-day life has meaning.     | 1      | 1   | 1   | 1    | Include (fine-tune) |

Table 15 Reliability statistics of the final 23-item TMLS

| No.                | Items   | Corrected Item-Total Correlation | Cronbach's Alpha if Item Deleted | Cronbach's Alpha |
|--------------------|---|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------|
| Coherence subscale |   |                                  |                                  |                  |
| 1                  | When going through a life change, I learn to understand that change.      | .361                             | .593                             |                  |
| 2                  | I can accept the uncertainties in my life.                                | .240                             | .626                             |                  |
| 3                  | I am confident that I can overcome obstacles in life.                     | .352                             | .595                             |                  |
| 4                  | I self-reflect on the things that happen in my life.                      | .508                             | .579                             | .632             |
| 5                  | I can tell what my key traits are.  | .387                             | .584                             |                  |
| 6                  | I have not found myself.  | .367                             | .590                             |                  |
| 7                  | When problems arise in life, I extract life lessons from them for myself. | .212                             | .628                             |                  |

| No.                   | Items   | Corrected<br>Item-Total<br>Correlation | Cronbach's<br>Alpha if Item<br>Deleted | Cronbach's<br>Alpha |
|-----------------------|---|--|--|---------------------|
| 8                     | I view my life as full of meaningless chaos.  | .320                                   | .608                                   |                     |
| Purpose subscale      |   |  |  |                     |
| 9                     | I have goals in life that are of value to me.   | .660                                   | .809                                   |                     |
| 10                    | I am living my life, moving toward the vision I<br>have drawn.                            | .608                                   | .817                                   |                     |
| 11                    | I know what I have to do to reach my goals.   | .650                                   | .810                                   |                     |
| 12                    | I put my heart and soul into pursuing my goals.   | .729                                   | .805                                   | .841                |
| 13                    | I am motivated to achieve my goals.   | .601                                   | .819                                   |                     |
| 14                    | I periodically assess myself to see whether the<br>values I hold in my life have changed. | .561                                   | .829                                   |                     |
| 15                    | I am ready to adjust my goals to align them<br>with the values I live by in life.         | .427                                   | .843                                   |                     |
| Significance subscale |   |  |  |                     |
| 16                    | I am satisfied with how I live my life.   | .697                                   | .841                                   |                     |
| 17                    | I like that I can live my life the way I want.  | .628                                   | .850                                   |                     |
| 18                    | I have beliefs that I use to guide the way I live<br>life.                                | .718                                   | .838                                   |                     |
| 19                    | I believe that what I do contributes to society.  | .667                                   | .844                                   | .866                |
| 20                    | I take pride in contributing to society.  | .626                                   | .850                                   |                     |
| 21                    | I feel like I am important to other people.   | .695                                   | .841                                   |                     |
| 22                    | I enjoy my daily life.  | .452                                   | .866                                   |                     |
| 23                    | I feel that my life is worth living.  | .492                                   | .864                                   |                     |



Appendix D  
ACT program content analysis

Table 16 ACT program content analysis

| No. | Session topic                          | Rating |        |        | Result | Improvement Suggestions   | Interpretation   |
|-----|--|--------|--------|--------|--------|---|------------------|
|     |  | SME1   | SME2   | SME3   |        |   |                  |
| 1   | Introduction and Creative hopelessness | Usable | Usable | Usable | Usable | - ผมมองว่า กิจกรรมที่ 1 ก็เป็นการสร้างความเข้มแข็งในการมองโลกนะ เพราะมีการทำความเข้าใจกับเพื่อนๆ<br>- ควรหาแนวทางในการติดตามหรือประเมินวัตถุประสงค์ที่กำหนดไว้  | Include (adjust) |
| 2   | Control agenda and Acceptance          | Usable | Usable | Usable | Usable | - น่าจะตัดคำว่า สูญเสีย ออก<br>- ควรหาแนวทางในการติดตามหรือประเมินวัตถุประสงค์ที่กำหนดไว้   | Include (adjust) |
| 3   | Cognitive defusion                     | Usable | Usable | Usable | Usable | - เป็นกิจกรรมที่น่าสนใจดี<br>- ควรหาแนวทางในการติดตามหรือประเมินวัตถุประสงค์ที่กำหนดไว้   | Include (adjust) |
| 4   | Contacting the present                 | Usable | Usable | Usable | Usable | - น่าจะมีการสอดแทรก ข้อคิด หรือเพิ่มกิจกรรม ถึงการรับรู้ให้มากขึ้น<br>- เพิ่มทักษะการประเมินคุณค่าของตนเองและผู้อื่น ในเหตุการณ์หนึ่ง ๆ ที่เกิดมองคุณค่าตนเองอย่างไร มองคุณค่าผู้อื่นอย่างไร<br>- ควรหาแนวทางในการติดตามหรือประเมิน | Include (adjust) |

| No. | Session topic                     | Rating |        |        | Result | Improvement   | Interpretation      |
|-----|-----------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---|---------------------|
|     |                                   |        |        |        |        | วัตถุประสงค์ที่กำหนดไว้   |                     |
| 5   | Self-as-<br>context               | Usable | Usable | Usable | Usable | - OK<br>- เพิ่มทักษะให้คุณค่า<br>ผู้อื่น โดยไม่นำคุณค่าของ<br>ตนเองมาตัดสินคุณค่า<br>ของผู้อื่น<br>- ควรหาแนวทางในการ<br>ติดตามหรือประเมิน<br>วัตถุประสงค์ที่กำหนดไว้   | Include<br>(adjust) |
| 6   | Values                            | Usable | Usable | Usable | Usable | - OK<br>- การเล่าเรื่อง (Story-<br>telling) อาจจะผ่าน<br>กระบวนการเล่าเรื่องการ<br>วาดภาพ การเขียน<br>- ควรหาแนวทางในการ<br>ติดตามหรือประเมิน<br>วัตถุประสงค์ที่กำหนดไว้  | Include<br>(adjust) |
| 7   | Values and<br>Committed<br>action | Usable | Usable | Usable | Usable | - คำปฏิญาณ ผมว่า<br>อาจจะดูเป็นทางการมาก<br>ไปหน่อย อาจจะเป็นไป<br>ทางการตั้งคำมั่นสัญญา<br>กับตัวเอง หรือข้อตั้งใจที่<br>ตนปฏิบัติได้ เพื่อให้เห็น<br>คุณค่าในตัวเอง<br>- การเล่าเรื่อง (Story-<br>telling) อาจจะผ่าน<br>กระบวนการเล่าเรื่อง<br>การวาดภาพ การเขียน<br>- ควรหาแนวทางในการ<br>ติดตามหรือประเมิน<br>วัตถุประสงค์ที่กำหนดไว้ | Include<br>(adjust) |
| 8   | Committed                         | Usable | Usable | Usable | Usable | - OK กิจกรรมที่ 7 และ   | Include             |



| No.  | Session topic          | Rating | Result | Improvement   | Interpretation |
|--|------------------------|--------|--------|---|----------------|
|  | action and termination |        |        | 8 อาจจะมีช่วงให้นักศึกษาไปทำตามที่ตนตั้งใจ และมาแบ่งปันให้เพื่อนๆ ฟัง เป็นรูปธรรม จะทำให้สรุปได้ง่ายขึ้น<br>- การเล่าเรื่อง (Story-telling) อาจจะผ่านกระบวนการเล่าเรื่อง การวาดภาพ การเขียน<br>- ควรหาแนวทางในการติดตามหรือประเมินวัตถุประสงค์ที่กำหนดไว้ | (adjust)       |
| <p><b>Other improvement suggestions:</b> (1) กิจกรรมออกแบบมาเป็นกระบวนการเดียวกัน แต่ก็เป็นหลักสูตรที่ต้องการการตกลึกทางความคิดของผู้รับการอบรม ดังนั้น จึงควรออกแบบการอบรมโดยคำนึงถึงความต่อเนื่องของกระบวนการ (2) ควรออกแบบให้มีการนิเทศการฝึกอบรม เพราะปัจจัยสำคัญประการหนึ่ง คือ วิทยากร ซึ่งอาจส่งผลกระทบต่อผลสัมฤทธิ์ที่จะเกิดขึ้นกับนักศึกษาที่เข้าสู่กระบวนการ Treatment</p> |                        |        |        |   |                |



Appendix E

t-test assumption tests

Table 17 t-test assumptions test

|       |                    | Kolmogorov-Smirnov <sup>a</sup> |    |                   | Shapiro-Wilk |    |      |
|-------|--------------------|---------------------------------|----|-------------------|--------------|----|------|
| Group |                    | Statistic                       | df | Sig.              | Statistic    | df | Sig. |
| MIL1  | Experimental Group | .209                            | 10 | .200 <sup>*</sup> | .891         | 10 | .176 |
|       | Control Group      | .204                            | 10 | .200 <sup>*</sup> | .862         | 10 | .082 |
| MIL2  | Experimental Group | .188                            | 10 | .200 <sup>*</sup> | .952         | 10 | .689 |
|       | Control Group      | .138                            | 10 | .200 <sup>*</sup> | .980         | 10 | .963 |

\*. This is a lower bound of the true significance.

a. Lilliefors Significance Correction

Table 17 t-test assumptions test (cont'd)

|      |                                      | Levene Statistic | df1 | df2    | Sig. |
|------|--------------------------------------|------------------|-----|--------|------|
| MIL1 | Based on Mean                        | 3.375            | 1   | 18     | .083 |
|      | Based on Median                      | 2.929            | 1   | 18     | .104 |
|      | Based on Median and with adjusted df | 2.929            | 1   | 16.370 | .106 |
|      | Based on trimmed mean                | 3.353            | 1   | 18     | .084 |
| MIL2 | Based on Mean                        | .084             | 1   | 18     | .775 |
|      | Based on Median                      | .032             | 1   | 18     | .859 |
|      | Based on Median and with adjusted df | .032             | 1   | 17.847 | .859 |
|      | Based on trimmed mean                | .073             | 1   | 18     | .790 |

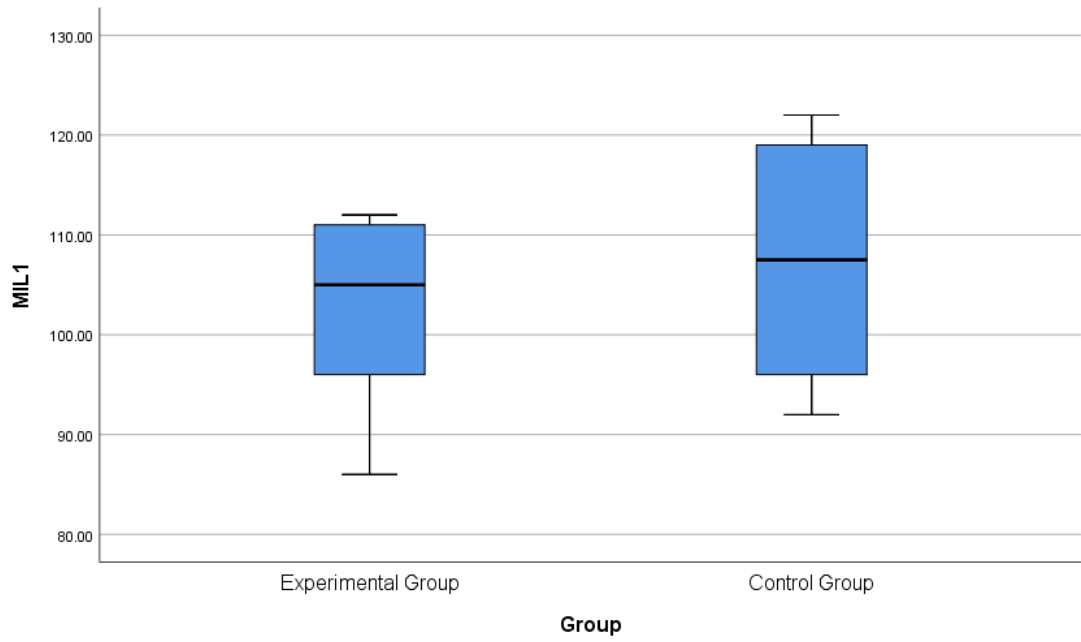


Figure 10 t-test assumptions test

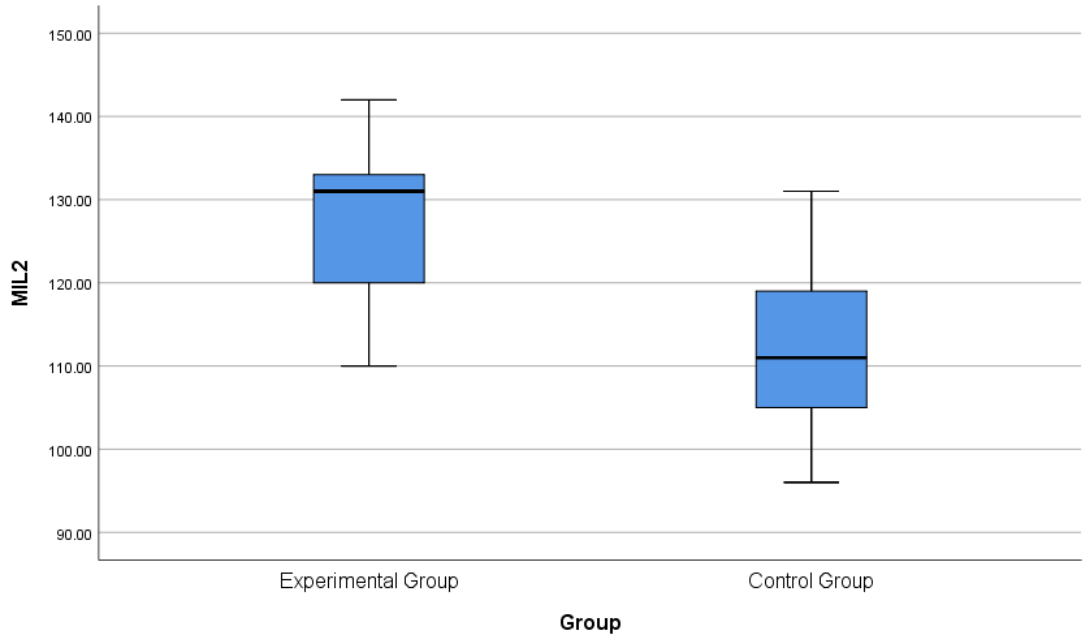


Figure 10 t-test assumptions test (cont'd)



Appendix F

Data collection measures (Thai)

Questionnaire: Demographics questions & Tripartite Meaning in Life Scale (Thai)

### แบบวัดความหมายในชีวิตของนักศึกษามหาวิทยาลัยชั้นปีที่ 1

#### คำชี้แจง

1. แบบวัดนี้ใช้วัดความหมายในชีวิตของนักศึกษามหาวิทยาลัยชั้นปีที่ 1 ผู้วิจัยขอให้ท่านตอบแบบวัดให้ตรงกับความคิด ความรู้สึก และการกระทำของท่านมากที่สุดเพียงข้อเดียว
2. ข้อมูลที่ได้จากแบบวัดความหมายในชีวิตของนักศึกษามหาวิทยาลัยชั้นปีที่ 1 นี้ ผู้วิจัยจะบันทึกเป็นความลับ และรายงานในภาพรวมเท่านั้น ไม่เผยแพร่เป็นรายบุคคล
3. โปรดตอบคำถามให้ครบทุกข้อ  
แบบประเมินจะประกอบด้วย 2 ส่วน ดังนี้  
ส่วนที่ 1 ข้อมูลทั่วไป จำนวน 8 ข้อ  
ส่วนที่ 2 แบบวัดความหมายในชีวิตของนักศึกษามหาวิทยาลัยชั้นปีที่ 1 จำนวน 23 ข้อ

#### ส่วนที่ 1 ข้อมูลทั่วไป

คำชี้แจง ให้ท่านทำเครื่องหมาย ✓ ลงใน  หรือเติมข้อความลงในช่องว่างให้ตรงกับตัวท่าน

1. เพศ  ชาย  หญิง  LGBTQ+ ระบุ  
.....
2. อายุ ..... ปี
3. ชั้นปีการศึกษา .....
4. คณะ .....
5. สาขาวิชา .....
6. สถานที่ศึกษา  ประสานมิตร  องค์กรักษ์
7. ท่านเคยลาออกจากมหาวิทยาลัยหรือเลิกเรียนกลางคันแล้วเข้าศึกษาใหม่ หรือกำลังเรียนซ้ำชั้นปีที่ 1 หรือไม่  
 เคยลาออก / กำลังเรียนซ้ำชั้น  
 ไม่เคยลาออก / ไม่ได้กำลังเรียนซ้ำชั้น

8. ในขณะนี้ ท่านป่วยด้วยโรคทางจิตเวชหรือไม่

ป่วย

ไม่ป่วย

**คำชี้แจง** กรุณาระบุว่าท่านเห็นด้วยหรือไม่เห็นด้วยอย่างน้อยเพียงใดกับข้อความดังต่อไปนี้ โดยทำเครื่องหมาย ✓ ในช่องที่ตรงกับความคิดเห็นของท่านมากที่สุด โดยมีระดับการให้คะแนนดังนี้

| ไม่เห็นด้วย<br>อย่างยิ่ง | ไม่เห็นด้วย | ค่อนข้างไม่<br>เห็นด้วย | ไม่แน่ใจ | ค่อนข้าง<br>เห็นด้วย | เห็นด้วย | เห็นด้วย<br>อย่างยิ่ง |
|--------------------------|-------------|-------------------------|----------|----------------------|----------|-----------------------|
| 1                        | 2           | 3                       | 4        | 5                    | 6        | 7                     |

| ข้อ | ข้อความ  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|-----|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1   | เมื่อชีวิตมีการเปลี่ยนแปลง ฉันจะให้ความสนใจกับการเปลี่ยนแปลงนั้น                     |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 2   | ฉันยอมรับกับความไม่แน่นอนที่เกิดขึ้นในชีวิตของฉันได้                                 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 3   | ฉันมั่นใจว่าตนเองสามารถก้าวข้ามผ่านอุปสรรคต่างๆ ในชีวิตได้                           |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 4   | ฉันคิดทบทวนตัวเองเกี่ยวกับเรื่องราวต่างๆ ที่เกิดขึ้นในชีวิตของฉัน                    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 5   | ฉันสามารถบอกได้ว่าตนเองมีคุณลักษณะเด่นอย่างไร  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 6   | ฉันยังค้นหาตัวตนของฉันไม่เจอ   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 7   | เมื่อเกิดปัญหาในเรื่องราวต่างๆ ของชีวิต ฉันจะมีข้อคิดชีวิตที่เป็นบทเรียนให้แก่ตัวเอง |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 8   | ฉันมองว่าชีวิตของฉันมีแต่ความยุ่งเหยิงที่ไร้ความหมาย                                 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 9   | ฉันมีเป้าหมายในชีวิตที่มีคุณค่าสำหรับฉัน   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |



| ข้อ | ข้อความ  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|-----|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 10  | ฉันกำลังดำเนินชีวิตไปสู่ภาพอนาคตที่ฉันวาดไว้   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 11  | ฉันรู้ว่าฉันจะต้องทำอะไรเพื่อไปสู่เป้าหมายของฉัน   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 12  | ฉันทุ่มเทพลังกายและใจให้กับเป้าหมายของฉันอย่างเต็มที่  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 13  | ฉันมีแรงจูงใจในการทำเป้าหมายให้สำเร็จ  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 14  | ฉันมีการประเมินตนเองเป็นระยะ เพื่อสำรวจว่า คุณค่าที่ยึดถือในการดำเนินชีวิตนั้น มีการเปลี่ยนแปลงไปหรือไม่ |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 15  | ฉันพร้อมปรับเปลี่ยนเป้าหมายชีวิตของตนเอง เพื่อให้สอดคล้องกับหลักที่ยึดถือในการดำเนินชีวิตของฉัน          |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 16  | ฉันรู้สึกพอใจกับการดำเนินชีวิตของฉัน   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 17  | ฉันชอบที่ตัวเองได้ใช้ชีวิตในแบบที่ต้องการ  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 18  | ฉันมีความเชื่อที่ใช้ยึดเหนี่ยวจิตใจในการดำเนินชีวิต  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 19  | ฉันเชื่อว่าสิ่งที่ฉันทำมีประโยชน์ต่อสังคม  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 20  | ฉันมีความภาคภูมิใจในการสร้างประโยชน์ต่อสังคม   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 21  | ฉันรู้สึกว่าตนเองมีความสำคัญต่อผู้อื่น   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 22  | ฉันรู้สึกสนุกกับการใช้ชีวิตประจำวัน  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 23  | ฉันรู้สึกว่าชีวิตของฉันมีความคุ้มค่าที่จะอยู่ต่อไป   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |

ACT Counseling program (Thai)

### โปรแกรมการบำบัดด้วยการยอมรับและพันธสัญญาต่อความหมายในชีวิต

ครั้งที่ 1

เรื่อง การปฐมนิเทศ สร้างสัมพันธภาพ และความสิ้นหวังอย่างสร้างสรรค์ (Introduction and Creative hopelessness)

เวลา 90 นาที

แนวคิดสำคัญ (Key Concept)

การสร้างสัมพันธภาพเป็นการสร้างความไว้วางใจ เพื่อให้สมาชิกกลุ่มมีความรู้สึกที่ดีและมีความเชื่อมั่นในสมาชิกกลุ่มตนเองและในผู้นำกลุ่ม ซึ่งนำไปสู่การเปิดเผยปัญหาและความรู้สึกที่แท้จริง ในการปฐมนิเทศและสร้างสัมพันธภาพในครั้งแรก ผู้นำกลุ่มจะเริ่มสร้างสัมพันธภาพเพื่อให้สมาชิกกลุ่มรู้สึกคุ้นเคยและไว้วางใจ โดยการพูดคุย ทำความรู้จักเบื้องต้น และการเล่นเกมละลายพฤติกรรม จากนั้นผู้นำกลุ่มจะให้ข้อมูลและความรู้เบื้องต้นเกี่ยวกับการปรึกษากลุ่มตามแนวทางการบำบัดด้วยการยอมรับและพันธสัญญา (Acceptance and commitment therapy; ACT) ซึ่งเป็นกระบวนการช่วยเหลือสมาชิกกลุ่มโดยใช้เทคนิคของกระบวนการการรับรู้ปัจจุบันและการยอมรับ (Mindfulness and acceptance processes) และกระบวนการพันธสัญญาและปรับเปลี่ยนพฤติกรรม (Commitment and behavior change processes) เพื่อสร้างความยืดหยุ่นทางจิตใจ (psychological flexibility) ให้สมาชิกสามารถสัมผัสกับปัจจุบันขณะ เห็นโอกาสและความเป็นไปได้ต่างๆ ในสภาวะปัจจุบัน และเพื่อประพัตติตนในทางที่สอดคล้องกับคุณค่าที่สำคัญและการมีชีวิตที่มีความหมายสำหรับตนเอง อันนำไปสู่การมีความหมายในชีวิตที่สูงขึ้น จากนั้นผู้นำกลุ่มทำการชี้แจงให้สมาชิกกลุ่มทราบถึงรายละเอียดและระเบียบในการให้การปรึกษากลุ่ม

กระบวนการความสิ้นหวังอย่างสร้างสรรค์ (Creative hopelessness) เป็นการสร้างความตระหนักรู้ในพฤติกรรมควบคุมความคิดและความรู้สึกที่มนุษย์ทั่วไปใช้ในชีวิตประจำวัน เพื่อให้สมาชิกกลุ่มเข้าใจว่าพฤติกรรมหรือเทคนิคการควบคุมที่ใช้ในการจัดการปัญหาต่างๆ ในชีวิตประจำวันของตนมักใช้ไม่ได้ผล (สร้างความสิ้นหวัง) อันนำมาสู่การเปิดมุมมองที่ว่าสมาชิกกลุ่มสามารถเลือกสร้างพฤติกรรมที่แตกต่างออกไปในการรับมือกับประสบการณ์ชีวิต (ความสิ้นหวังที่สร้างสรรค์)

วัตถุประสงค์

1. เพื่อสร้างสัมพันธภาพระหว่างสมาชิกกลุ่มตนเอง และระหว่างสมาชิกกลุ่มกับผู้นำกลุ่ม
2. เพื่อให้สมาชิกทราบถึงวัตถุประสงค์ ข้อตกลงต่างๆ รวมถึงวันเวลา และรูปแบบในการปรึกษา
3. เพื่อให้สมาชิกทราบถึงประโยชน์ที่จะได้รับจากการปรึกษา

4. เพื่อสร้างความตระหนักรู้เกี่ยวกับวิธีการต่างๆ ที่สมาชิกใช้ในการรับมือกับประสบการณ์ท้าทายต่างๆ ในช่วงชีวิตนักศึกษาปี 1
5. เพื่อให้สมาชิกมองเห็นว่าวิธีการต่างๆ ในการควบคุมอารมณ์และความคิดใช้ไม่ได้ผล
6. เพื่อให้สมาชิกตระหนักรู้ว่าตนสามารถสร้างวิธีใหม่ๆ ในการรับมือกับประสบการณ์ท้าทายในชีวิต

### สื่อและอุปกรณ์

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### วิธีดำเนินการ

1. ผู้นำกลุ่มต้อนรับสมาชิก แนะนำตนเอง และขอให้สมาชิกแนะนำตัวด้วยชื่อ สาขาวิชา ความรู้สึกต่อนี้ และ ความสุขของเราให้ช่วงนี้ (ความสุขสามารถที่จะเป็น สถานที่ กิจกรรม สิ่งของ ฯลฯ)
2. ผู้นำกลุ่มนำกิจกรรมละลายพฤติกรรม "ยินดีที่ได้รู้จัก" (Get to know you) โดยให้สมาชิกเลือกตอบคำถามจากคลังคำถาม เช่น อะไรเป็นสิ่งที่ทำให้คุณรู้สึกภูมิใจในตนเอง คุณคาดหวังอะไรจากการทำกลุ่ม คุณชอบทำอะไรในเวลาว่าง อะไรเป็นเรื่องซ้ำที่เพิ่งเกิดขึ้นในชีวิตของคุณ มีอะไรเกี่ยวกับคุณที่ถ้ากลุ่มนี้รับรู้จะรู้สึกเซอร์ไพรส์ โดยทุกครั้งที่สมาชิกตอบคำถาม ผู้นำกลุ่มจะชวนสมาชิกท่านอื่นๆ เข้ามามีส่วนร่วม เพื่อสร้างสัมพันธภาพ เช่น ผ่านการถามถึงความเหมือนหรือความแตกต่างระหว่างสมาชิก
3. ผู้นำกลุ่มชี้แจงให้สมาชิกกลุ่มทราบแนวทางและเป้าหมายของกลุ่ม (ประเด็นของ ความท้าทายต่างๆ ในการก้าวเข้าปีแรกของมหาวิทยาลัยและความสำคัญของการ สร้างความหมายในชีวิต แบบทดสอบที่ทุกคนได้ทำก่อนหน้านี้) จำนวน session ระยะเวลาของแต่ละ session รวมถึงชี้แจงเรื่องการยินยอมเข้าร่วมโครงการวิจัย และการรักษาความลับ

4. ผู้นำกลุ่มให้ความรู้เบื้องต้นเกี่ยวกับความหมายในชีวิต และกระบวนการ ACT (การใช้ชีวิตอย่างเต็มที่และอย่างมีความหมาย แม้จะต้องผ่านประสบการณ์ยากๆ ที่ไม่อาจหลีกเลี่ยงได้, "workability ได้ผลหรือไม่ได้ผล," การเปิดใจกับประสบการณ์ทำกลุ่ม)
5. ผู้นำกลุ่มชวนกำหนดข้อตกลงในการอยู่ร่วมกันและชี้แจงบทบาทหน้าที่ในฐานะสมาชิกกลุ่ม
6. ผู้นำกลุ่มพาเข้าสู่กระบวนการความสิ้นหวังอย่างสร้างสรรค์ (Creative hopelessness) โดยการพูดคุยเกี่ยวกับประสบการณ์ของการเป็นนักศึกษาปี 1 โดยพูดคุยกันถึงประสบการณ์ด้านบวกก่อน และค่อยพูดถึงปัญหาต่างๆ ที่สมาชิกกำลังเผชิญอยู่ (ผู้นำกลุ่มจด keyword) ให้สมาชิกช่วยกันสรุป
7. ผู้นำกลุ่มพูดคุยเกี่ยวกับวิธีการต่างๆ ที่สมาชิกเคยใช้หรือกำลังใช้เพื่อรับมือกับปัญหาเหล่านี้ ได้ผลอย่างไร (ผู้นำกลุ่มจด keyword) ให้สมาชิกช่วยกันสรุป
8. ผู้นำกลุ่มถามสมาชิก จากที่พูดกันมาทั้งหมด เห็นอะไร รู้สึกอย่างไร (ผู้นำกลุ่มเริ่มสะท้อนการพยายามทั้งหมด การต่อต้าน การต่อสู้ การติดขัด ทำเท่าไรหรือปัญหาก็กังอยู่)
9. ผู้นำกลุ่มใช้คำอุปมาอุปไมย "ทรายดูด" (Quicksand metaphor) เพื่อให้สมาชิกได้เห็นภาพว่าวิธีการที่ใช้อยู่ อาจจะใช้ไม่ได้ผล ดังนี้ เช้าวันหนึ่งคุณตัดสินใจที่จะออกไปเดินเล่นพักผ่อนในป่า มันเป็นป่าที่มีต้นไม้หนาแน่นและมีสัตว์ป่าที่อุดมสมบูรณ์ ขณะที่คุณกำลังเพลิดเพลินไปกับความงามตามธรรมชาติ คุณก็พบว่ารองเท้าของคุณจมหายลงไปในพื้นดินที่คุณยืนอยู่ คุณได้เดินเข้าไปในทรายดูด และร่างกายของคุณก็กำลังค่อยๆ โดนดูดลงไป (ถามสมาชิกกลุ่ม "ความรู้สึกของคุณจะเป็นอย่างไรตอนนั้น คุณจะปฏิบัติอย่างไร" ทันทีก่อนทราบ คุณสติแตก ตื่นตระหนก ตื่นกลัว พยายามบังคับดินรน เพื่อให้ตนเองเป็นอิสระ เพราะมันเป็นสัญชาตญาณของคุณ เป็นสิ่งที่คุณคุ้นชิน (ถามสมาชิกกลุ่ม "คิดว่าทำอย่างนี้จะเกิดอะไรขึ้น") แต่ความจริงแล้ว ยิ่งคุณดิ้นรน คุณจะยิ่งทำให้ตัวเองโดนดูดลึกขึ้นกว่าเดิม และทรายจะรัดขาคุณแน่นกว่าเดิม ยิ่งต่อสู้คุณก็ยิ่งหมดแรง (พูดกับสมาชิกกลุ่ม "ตอนนี้ทุกคนกำลังอยู่ในทรายดูด กำลังดิ้นรน อยากจะชวนทุกคนลองมองการดิ้นรนของตนเอง" ให้เวลา

สมาชิกสะท้อน ตาม "รู้สึกอย่างไรบ้าง") และถามต่อว่า "จะทำอย่างไรดี เพื่อให้ทราบดี  
ไม่คุณลงไปกว่าเดิม" เพื่อให้สมาชิกได้เชื่อมกับตัวเอง)

10. ผู้นำกลุ่มเริ่มเกริ่นถึงอีกหนึ่งวิธีที่สามารถใช้รับมือกับปัญหา เพื่อเชื่อมเข้าสู่การทำ  
กลุ่มครั้งถัดไปในหัวข้อการยอมรับ (Acceptance) ผ่านการทำกิจกรรม "นั่งอยู่  
ด้วยกัน" (Sit with it) ผู้นำกลุ่มให้สมาชิกนึกถึงเหตุการณ์ท้าทายที่กำลังเผชิญอยู่ และ  
ให้สมาชิกสังเกตตนเองที่กำลังพยายามควบคุมสถานการณ์อยู่หรือไม่ และอย่างไร  
เมื่อรับรู้แล้วค่อยๆ อนุญาตให้ตนเองได้อยู่กับสถานการณ์นั้นๆ แบบไม่ต้องทำอะไร  
แค่อยู่กับมัน ผู้นำกลุ่มให้ทำกิจกรรมนี้เป็นการบ้าน ให้สามารถได้ลองฝึกทำ เวลา  
ตนเองตกอยู่ในสถานการณ์ที่ตนกำลังพยายามควบคุมความคิดและอารมณ์

#### การประเมินผล

1. (1) สังเกตจากลักษณะและบรรยากาศของการสนทนาระหว่างสมาชิกกลุ่ม
2. (2-6) สังเกตจากการมีส่วนร่วม การตอบคำถาม แสดงความคิดเห็น และการสะท้อน  
ความคิด ความรู้สึก
3. (2-6) พิจารณาจากผลการสะท้อนประสบการณ์การฝึกทักษะที่มอบหมายให้เป็นการบ้าน

ครั้งที่ 2

เรื่อง การพยายามควบคุมประสบการณ์ และการยอมรับ (Control agenda and acceptance)

เวลา 90 นาที

แนวคิดสำคัญ (Key Concept)

กระบวนการการพยายามควบคุมประสบการณ์ (Control agenda) เป็นการสร้างความ  
ตระหนักรู้ในพฤติกรรมพยายามควบคุมประสบการณ์ของสมาชิก ที่เป็นพฤติกรรมธรรมชาติ  
ของมนุษย์ ต่อเนื่องจากการสร้างความสิ้นหวังอย่างสร้างสรรค์ (Creative hopelessness)  
กระบวนการนี้จะทำให้สมาชิกได้เห็นสิ่งที่ตนเองต้องแลกมากับการพยายามควบคุมความคิดและ  
อารมณ์ต่างๆ ในการรับมือกับประสบการณ์หลากหลายของชีวิตนักศึกษา

กระบวนการการยอมรับ (Acceptance) เป็นการเรียนรู้ทักษะของการยอมรับทุกๆ  
ประสบการณ์ชีวิตที่เกิดขึ้น ไม่ว่าจะประสบการณ์ที่ทำให้รู้สึกดีหรือไม่ดี เพื่อให้สมาชิกตระหนัก

รู้ว่าการยอมรับสามารถเป็นอีกหนึ่งทางเลือกในการใช้ชีวิตและการรับมือกับปัญหาต่างๆ ที่สามารถทำให้สมาชิกเผชิญกับประสบการณ์ชีวิตที่มีประสิทธิภาพมากขึ้น

การทำกลุ่มครั้งที่ 2 นี้เน้นส่งเสริมองค์ประกอบ ความเข้มแข็งในการมองโลก (Coherence) ของตัวแปร ความหมายในชีวิต ซึ่งเกี่ยวกับการเข้าใจและยอมรับประสบการณ์ที่หลากหลายและไม่แน่นอน

วัตถุประสงค์

1. เพื่อสร้างความตระหนักรู้ถึงสิ่งที่สมาชิกต้องแลกมากับการพยายามควบคุมความคิดและความรู้สึก
2. เพื่อให้สมาชิกมองว่าการยอมรับทุกๆ ประสบการณ์เป็นอีกแนวทางที่สามารถใช้ได้

สื่อและอุปกรณ์

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วิธีดำเนินการ

1. ผู้นำกลุ่มชวนให้สมาชิกทบทวนสิ่งที่ทำไปเมื่อ session 1 และการบ้าน โดยให้แบ่งปันประสบการณ์ของการทำ “นั่งอยู่ด้วยกัน” (Sit with it) รู้สึกอย่างไร ทำได้ ไม่ได้ ได้เรียนรู้อะไรเกี่ยวกับตัวเอง เกี่ยวกับเพื่อน (ขมวดให้สมาชิกเห็นคุณสมบัติ จุดเด่น ของตนเองและของเพื่อนฯ)
2. ผู้นำกลุ่มถามสมาชิกกลุ่มว่า ใครที่เลือกใช้การควบคุมและทำได้บ้าง ทำอย่างไร ผู้นำกลุ่มลองคิดว่าเป็นประเด็นเล็กหรือใหญ่ ทำได้แล้วปัญหาหายไปถาวรหรือกลับมาใหม่ใหม่ ผู้นำกลุ่มขมวดประเด็นว่า ส่วนมากวิธีการต่างๆ ที่ใช้มา มักใช้ไม่ได้ผล การพยายามควบคุม การพยายามแก้ไข ไม่ได้ช่วยให้หลุดพ้นจากสถานการณ์ต่างๆ อย่างแท้จริง
3. ผู้นำกลุ่มนำกิจกรรม "เลขอะไร" (What are the numbers?) เพื่อขยายภาพของการควบคุม เหตุใดถึงใช้ไม่ได้ผล และเพื่อเตรียมเข้าสู่กระบวนการของการยอมรับ โดยนำกิจกรรมดังนี้ ผู้นำกลุ่มเลือกตัวเลข 3 ตัวเลข "1, 2, 3" และพูดให้สมาชิกทราบชัดเจนว่าคือตัวเลขอะไรบ้าง จากนั้นแจ้งให้สมาชิกทราบว่าหน้าที่ของเขาคือการไม่คิดถึง

ตัวเลข 1 2 3 นี้ (โดยทั่วไป สมาชิกจะค้นพบและตอบว่าทำไม่ได้ เป็นไปไม่ได้ แต่หากมีสมาชิกที่ตอบว่าทำได้ ผู้นำกลุ่มจะถามต่อว่า "รู้ได้อย่างไรว่าทำได้สำเร็จ เป็นเพราะว่าคุณไม่คิดถึง...อะไรนะ") อธิบายให้สมาชิกทราบว่า "กลไกของสมอง การนึกคิดของมนุษย์ เวลาเราบอกว่าเราไม่ได้คิดถึงอะไรบางอย่าง ในสมองเราจะต้องมีสิ่งๆ นั้น เป็นตัวอ้างอิง ให้เรารู้ว่าเราไม่ได้คิดถึงสิ่งๆ นั้น มันยากมากที่เราจะควบคุม หลีกหนีความคิดของเรา"

4. ผู้นำกลุ่มใช้คำอุปมาอุปไมย "ลูกบอลในสระน้ำ" (Ball in a pool metaphor) เพื่อให้เห็นสิ่งที่สมาชิกต้องแลกมาในการควบคุมความคิด ความรู้สึก (ที่หลีกเลี่ยงไม่ได้) และมองการยอมรับเป็นอีกแนวทางนอกเหนือจากการควบคุม โดยพาเข้ากระบวนการดังนี้ ให้จินตนาการว่าคุณกำลังยืนอยู่ในสระว่ายน้ำ มือด้านหนึ่งของคุณกำลังกดลูกบอลให้อยู่ใต้น้ำ ลูกบอลนี้เป็นตัวแทนของสิ่งที่คุณกำลังหลีกเลี่ยงหรือกดทับอยู่ อาจจะเป็นความรู้สึก เช่น ความอับอาย ความกลัว ความโกรธ อาจจะเป็นประสบการณ์ชีวิต เช่น เคยโดนต่อว่า หรือสังคมไม่ยอมรับ หรืออาจจะเป็นความทรงจำ เช่นบาดแผลในใจในวัยเด็ก ตราบใดที่คุณยังกดลูกบอลไว้ใต้น้ำ ฝืนน้ำก็จะเรียบนิ่งสงบ ชีวิตคุณก็ดี แต่สิ่งต่างๆ ที่คุณสามารถทำได้ การเคลื่อนไหวร่างกายในสระจะถูกจำกัด จะเดินก็ยาก เหนื่อยเมื่อยแขนอีก มีมือเหลือแค่ด้านเดียว และคุณเองก็ไม่สามารถกดลูกบอลให้อยู่ใต้น้ำได้ตลอดไป ถึงจุดหนึ่งลูกบอลก็จะหลุดมือ เด้งขึ้นมาทำให้ฝืนน้ำแตกกระจาย พอเหตุการณ์นี้เกิดขึ้น คุณก็รีบกดลูกบอลกลับลงไปใต้น้ำอย่างพลุกพล่าน ทำให้คลื่นค่อยๆ หายไปชั่วคราว ให้คุณได้กลับมาอยู่แบบเดิม ถ้าคุณเป็นคนๆ นี้ คุณจะรู้สึกอย่างไร คุณคิดว่าจะทำอย่างไรได้บ้าง เพื่อให้คุณสามารถสนุกกับการเล่นน้ำในสระได้มากขึ้น? จะเป็นอย่างไรถ้าคุณค่อยๆ เรียนรู้ที่จะให้ลูกบอลมันลอยขึ้นมาที่ผิวน้ำ เมื่อคุณปล่อยมือลูกบอลก็จะสามารถลอยออกไป มันจะไม่หายไปจากสระ มันยังคงลอยไปตามลมที่พัดผ่าน บางครั้งก็อาจจะลอยมาอยู่ข้างหน้าคุณ บางครั้งก็ไกลจากคุณมากๆ ถ้าเรายอมรับว่าลูกบอลมันก็จะอยู่ในสระแบบนี้ เราก็สามารถที่จะเดินไปไหนมาไหนได้อย่างเป็นอิสระ สามารถตัดสินใจได้ว่า จะเดินไปทางไหน (พูดกับสมาชิกกลุ่ม "มนุษย์ทุกคนมีลูกบอลเป็นของตัวเอง จะที่ลูกก็



ว่าไป นั่นเป็นเงื่อนไขของการเป็นมนุษย์ การตกหลุมความคิด ความรู้สึกที่เจ็บปวด เป็นสิ่งที่เราทุกคนต้องเผชิญในชีวิต หลีกเลี่ยงไม่ได้" / ถามสมาชิกกลุ่ม "ลองนึกดู เรามีลูกบอลอะไรบางอย่างที่เราถกดและพยายามควบคุมต่อสู้อยู่ในชีวิตของเรา ถ้าเรามองว่า เราไม่ต้องถกดเขาต่อไป เราจะเป็นอย่างไร")

5. ผู้นำกลุ่มให้สมาชิกฝึกประโยคหรือคำพูดการยอมรับที่สามารถพูดกับตัวเองได้ เพื่อฝึกการยอมรับความคิด ความรู้สึก ที่เกิดขึ้นในแต่ละวัน เช่น "ฉันอนุญาตให้ตัวเอง รับรู้ความคิดและความรู้สึก / ฉันไม่ต้องต่อสู้กับความคิดและความรู้สึก / ฉันยอมรับ ความคิดและความรู้สึกในแบบที่มันเป็น / ฉันมอบพื้นที่เล็กๆ ให้กับความคิดและความรู้สึก / ฉันอ่อนโยนกับความคิดและความรู้สึก / ฉันปล่อยให้ความคิดและความรู้สึกเป็นอย่างที่มันเป็น / ฉันหายใจเข้าและออกให้กับความคิดและความรู้สึก / ฉันหยุดหนี้อยู่กับการผลักความคิดและความรู้สึกออกไป" ผู้นำกลุ่มให้สมาชิกฝึกใช้ คำพูดเหล่านี้เป็นการบ้าน

#### การประเมินผล

1. (1-2) สังเกตจากการมีส่วนร่วม การตอบคำถาม แสดงความคิดเห็น และการสะท้อนความคิด ความรู้สึก
2. (1-2) พิจารณาจากผลการสะท้อนประสบการณ์การฝึกทักษะที่มอบหมายให้เป็นการบ้าน

ครั้งที่ 3

เรื่อง การแยกความคิด (Cognitive defusion)

เวลา 90 นาที

แนวคิดสำคัญ (Key Concept)

กระบวนการการแยกความคิด (Cognitive defusion) เป็นการพัฒนาทักษะของการแยกตัวออกจากของตัวสมาชิก จากความคิดความรู้สึกของสมาชิกที่รบกวนจิตใจของตนเอง โดยสมาชิกจะเรียนรู้ที่จะสร้างระยะห่างทางจิตใจนี้ แบบที่ไม่มีการควบคุม ปรับเปลี่ยน หรือหลีกเลี่ยงความคิด ความรู้สึกที่เกิดขึ้น เป็นเพียงการปรับเปลี่ยนวิธีการมองและรับมือกับประสบการณ์

ภายในของสมาชิก ที่ใช้หลักการของการเรียนรู้ภาษาของมนุษย์ในการทำให้เกิดการเปลี่ยนแปลงทางความคิด

การทำกลุ่มครั้งที่ 3 นี้เน้นส่งเสริมองค์ประกอบ ความเข้มแข็งในการมองโลก (Coherence) ของตัวแปร ความหมายในชีวิต ซึ่งเกี่ยวกับการเข้าใจและยอมรับประสบการณ์ที่หลากหลายและไม่แน่นอน

วัตถุประสงค์

1. เพื่อสร้างระยะห่างระหว่างตัวสมาชิกกับความคิด ความรู้สึก ที่รบกวนจิตใจ
2. เพื่อให้สมาชิกเรียนรู้ที่จะไม่พยายามควบคุม เปลี่ยนแปลง หรือหลีกเลี่ยงความคิด

ความรู้สึก

สื่อและอุปกรณ์

สื่อ

1. เพลง/เสียงสายน้ำเบาๆ

วิธีดำเนินการ

1. ผู้นำกลุ่มชวนให้สมาชิกทบทวนสิ่งที่ทำไปเมื่อ session 2 และการบ้าน โดยให้แบ่งปันประสบการณ์ของการฝึกใช้ประโยคหรือคำพูดการยอมรับ รู้สึกอย่างไร ทำได้ ไม่ได้ ได้เรียนรู้อะไรเกี่ยวกับตัวเอง เกี่ยวกับเพื่อน (ขมวดให้สมาชิกเห็นคุณสมบัติ จุดเด่น ของตนเองและของเพื่อนๆ)
2. ผู้นำกลุ่มใช้คำอุปมาอุปไมย "มะนาว" (Lemon metaphor) เพื่ออธิบายการทำงานของภาษา ธรรมชาติของความคิดและการหลอมรวมกับความคิด เป็นการนำเข้าสู่กระบวนการ การแยกความคิด (Cognitive defusion) โดยพาทำกิจกรรมดังนี้ ให้ทุกคนพูดคำว่ามะนาว พูดแล้วมีภาพอะไรผุดขึ้นมาในหัวบ้าง มีความทรงจำเกี่ยวกับมะนาวมั๊ย แล้วถ้านึกถึงสี รูปร่าง ขนาดของมะนาวล่ะ ถ้าบอกให้นึกถึงกลิ่นของมะนาว จะเป็นกลิ่นแบบไหน ตอนนี้นำจินตนาการว่าคุณวางมะนาวลงบนเชียง หั่นมะนาวออกเป็นครึ่ง และบีบครึ่งหนึ่งเข้าปาก เกิดอะไรขึ้น เรานึกถึงอะไรบ้าง สังเกตความรู้สึกอะไรเพิ่มเติมในร่างกายของเรา ปากเราผลิตน้ำลายเพิ่มขึ้นมั๊ย พี่จะเดาว่า

ทุกคนไม่ได้มีมะนาวอยู่ใกล้ๆ ตัว แต่เพียงแค่ว่าพูดคำว่ามะนาว นึกถึงมะนาว ก็มี ความคิด ความรู้สึกที่เกี่ยวข้องกับมะนาวผุดขึ้นมาเยอะมาก นี่เป็นปรากฏการณ์ ธรรมชาติของภาษา เรายังนึกถึงคำคำหนึ่ง ก็จะมีความคิดอีกมากมายผุดมาด้วย ถ้าเรา ยกตัวอย่างความคิดที่มักเชื่อมหลอมรวมกับตัวเราเช่น ฉันโง่ ฉันดีไม่พอ ฉันไม่เก่ง คิด ว่าจะเป็นอย่างไร ตอนนี้อยู่แล้วว่าจะกลไกสมองมนุษย์มันทำงานอย่างไร การรับรู้ ภาษา การจัดความคิดเป็นเครือข่าย ตอนนี้อยากให้เราลองอะไรบางอย่าง ให้เราลอง ออกเสียงพูดคำว่ามะนาวเร็วๆ ติดต่อกันนาน 30 วินาที (ลองทำ) เป็นอย่างไร (กลายเป็นคำที่ไม่มี ความหมาย) ลองแบบเดิมกับความคิดที่เราใช้ตัดสินใจตัวเอง พูด ด้วยน้ำเสียงเรียบเฉย (ลองทำ) เป็นอย่างไร คำเหล่านี้ก็เป็นแค่คำ คำที่เราเป็นคนให้ ความหมายและอำนาจกับมัน (กิจกรรมนี้ อยากให้เห็นและเข้าใจอิทธิพลของ ความคิด ที่เราไม่สามารถวิ่งหนีได้ในระยะยาว หรือวิ่งหนีได้ตลอดไป มันเป็น ธรรมชาติของมนุษย์ที่จะมีความคิดที่เกิดขึ้นจากประสบการณ์ การเรียนรู้ และการ ตีความ)

3. ผู้นำกลุ่มนำการทำกิจกรรม "ใบไม้ในลำธาร" (Leaves on a stream) เพื่อฝึกการแยก ความคิด โดยเปิดเพลง/เสียงสายน้ำเบาๆ และพูดดังนี้ ให้ทุกคนนั่งในท่าที่สบาย หลังตรง ให้จินตนาการว่าเรากำลังนั่งอยู่ใกล้ๆ ลำธาร หันหน้าเข้าหาลำธาร ลำธาร นี้มีน้ำไหลเอื่อยๆ และมีใบไม้ไหลลอยบนผิวน้ำ ไหลตามกระแส น้ำอย่างช้าๆ (เจียบ) ในช่วงเวลาต่อไปนี้ หากมีความคิดผุดขึ้นมาให้หัว ให้เรานำความคิดนั้นวางลงบน ใบไม้ และปล่อยให้เขาค่อยๆ ลอยผ่านไป ให้เราทำแบบนี้กับทุกๆ ความคิด ทั้งที่ทำให้ รู้สึกดี เจ็บปวด หรือเฉยๆ วางเขาลงบนใบไม้ ปล่อยให้เขาลอยไป ถ้าเราไม่มีความคิด เลย ให้เรามองที่ลำธารต่อไป สักพักจะมีความคิดเกิดขึ้นมาเอง (เจียบ) ปล่อยให้เขาลอย น้ำมันไหลตามธรรมชาติของมัน ไม่ต้องไปเร่งเขา เราไม่ได้จะเร่งให้ใบไม้หรือความคิด นั้นหายไป เรากำลังอนุญาตให้ทุกอย่างมาและไปตามธรรมชาติของมัน ถ้าเรามี ความคิดว่า น่าเบื่อ ไร้สาระ ผุดขึ้นมา ก็ให้นำความคิดนั้นวางลงบนใบไม้เช่นกัน (เจียบ) ถ้ามีใบไม้ติดในลำธาร สังเกตเขาจนเขาพร้อมจะลอยจากไป หากความคิดนั้น มาใหม่ แค่มองเขาลอยผ่านไปอีกครั้ง (เจียบ) ถ้ามีความรู้สึกไม่สบายใจเกิดขึ้น ให้

- สังเกตเขา และบอกกับตัวเองว่า "ฉันสังเกตว่าฉันกำลังรู้สึก..." หรือหากมีความคิด "ฉันกำลังมีความคิดว่า..." แล้ววางความคิดความรู้สึกนั้นลงบนไปไม้ อาจจะมีบ้างที่เราจะเกาะติดไปกับความคิดของเรา ทำให้เราหลุดจากกิจกรรมนี้ไม่เป็นไร เป็นเรื่องปกติ แค่นำตัวเรากลับมานั่งอยู่ข้างๆ ลำธาร มองความคิดต่อไป (เงียบยาวๆ 1 นาที) ค่อยๆ นำการรับรู้กลับไปที่กลุ่มของเรา รับรู้ถึงกันที่สัมผัสที่นิ่ง ลมหายใจเข้าออกของเรา ค่อยๆ สัมผัส -> เป็นอย่างไรบ้าง (ย้ำถึงกลไกของภาษา ความคิดของมนุษย์ เป็นสิ่งที่เกิดขึ้นกับทุกคน ทุกคนที่เป็นมนุษย์ก็ต้องเผชิญกับความคิด ภาพในหัว ที่ถ้าเราไม่รู้ตัว สามารถขยายใหญ่กว้างออกไปได้ง่ายๆ และเข้ามาควบคุมเรา สิ่งที่เราทำได้อีกคือมองเห็นเขา) (ในการขมวดให้ เน้นการสังเกตและมองที่ตัวความคิด แทนที่จะมองจากความคิด, เน้นความแตกต่างระหว่างการมีความคิด และการเชื่อความคิดของเรา (ว่าเป็นข้อเท็จจริง ความจริง), เห็นความแตกต่างระหว่างผู้คิดและความคิด)
4. เพื่อให้มีทักษะติดตัวแบบเป็นรูปธรรม ผู้นำกลุ่มนำกิจกรรม "เรียกชื่อความคิด" (Labeling thoughts) โดยให้สมาชิกสังเกตว่ามีความคิดอะไรที่ทำให้เราติดอยู่กับพฤติกรรมหรือความรู้สึกเจ้าปัญหาเดิมๆ และพยายามมองที่ตัวความคิดแทนที่จะมองจากความคิด โดยใช้เทคนิคการเรียกชื่อความคิด เช่น "ฉันกำลังมีความคิดว่า..." ผู้นำกลุ่มให้ทำกิจกรรมนี้เป็นการบ้าน

#### การประเมินผล

1. (1-2) สังเกตจากการมีส่วนร่วม การตอบคำถาม แสดงความคิดเห็น และการสะท้อนความคิด ความรู้สึก
2. (1-2) พิจารณาจากผลการสะท้อนประสบการณ์การฝึกทักษะที่มอบหมายให้เป็นการบ้าน

#### ครั้งที่ 4

เรื่อง การรับรู้ปัจจุบัน (Contacting the present)

เวลา 90 นาที

แนวคิดสำคัญ (Key Concept)

กระบวนการการรับรู้ปัจจุบัน (Contacting the present) เป็นการพัฒนาทักษะด้านการรับรู้ การสัมผัสกับปัจจุบันขณะ การนำสติ การรับรู้ มาอยู่ที่ประสบการณ์ภายในและภายนอกที่ กำลังเกิดขึ้น โดยละเว้นการตัดสินใดๆ เพื่อให้สมาชิกสามารถมองเห็นความท้าทายในชีวิตผ่านมุมมองใหม่ การรับรู้ปัจจุบันจะทำให้สมาชิกมีภาพของความจริงที่กว้างขึ้นเกี่ยวกับประสบการณ์ตนเองในสภาวะปัจจุบัน รับรู้ข้อมูลมากขึ้น เห็นทางเลือกหรือความเป็นไปได้มากขึ้น ทำให้สามารถปรับเปลี่ยนการตัดสินใจและพฤติกรรมการใช้ชีวิตของตนเอง

การทำกลุ่มครั้งที่ 4 นี้เน้นส่งเสริมองค์ประกอบ ความเข้มแข็งในการมองโลก (Coherence) ของตัวแปร ความหมายในชีวิต ซึ่งเกี่ยวกับการเข้าใจและยอมรับประสบการณ์ที่หลากหลายและไม่แน่นอน

#### วัตถุประสงค์

1. เพื่อให้สมาชิกรับรู้ประสบการณ์ภายในและภายนอกในขณะที่กำลังเกิดขึ้น โดยไม่ตัดสินประสบการณ์นั้นๆ

#### สื่อและอุปกรณ์

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#### วิธีดำเนินการ

1. ผู้นำกลุ่มชวนให้สมาชิกทบทวนสิ่งที่ทำไปเมื่อ session 3 และการบ้าน โดยให้แบ่งปันประสบการณ์ของการ “เรียกชื่อความคิด” (Labeling thoughts) รู้สึกอย่างไร ทำได้ไม่ได้ ได้เรียนรู้อะไรเกี่ยวกับตัวเอง เกี่ยวกับเพื่อน (ขมวดให้สมาชิกเห็นคุณสมบัติจุดเด่น ของตนเองและของเพื่อนๆ)
2. ทำกิจกรรม “ที่นี่ เวลานี้” (Mindfulness meditation) เพื่อให้สมาชิกเข้าใจการอยู่กับปัจจุบันอย่างทองแท้ ผ่านการมีประสบการณ์, สร้างทักษะความยืดหยุ่นในการรับรู้แต่ลักษณะของประสบการณ์ที่มีอยู่, สัมผัสกับความอิสระที่จะเป็น จะทำ หรือจะเลือกสิ่งต่างๆ ในขณะที่รับรู้ประสบการณ์ปัจจุบัน (Mindfulness แท้จริงแล้วไม่ได้ทำเพื่อให้เราผ่อนคลาย แต่ทำเพื่อให้เราเห็นและยอมรับสิ่งที่กำลังเกิดขึ้น โดยไม่ต้องต้านประสบการณ์ใดๆ ทั้งสิ้น เราสามารถรับรู้ความตึงของร่างกาย รับรู้ว่าใจไม่อยู่กับเนื้อ

กับตัว ฯลฯ) ผู้นำกลุ่มนำกิจกรรมดังนี้ อยากให้ทุกคนกลับมาเป็นตัวเอง กลับมาอยู่กับตัวเอง ตั้งใจตัวเองกลับมา เลิกนั่งท่าที่สบาย ทำติดพื้นสบายๆ ยึดหลังให้ตรง ผ่อนคลายหัวไหล่ ค่อยๆ หลับตาลง (หยุด) วางใจในร่างกายของเรา สำหรับกิจกรรมนี้ ให้เรานำการรับรู้มาอยู่กับปัจจุบัน มาอยู่กับวินาทีนี้ สังเกตว่ามีอะไรเกิดขึ้นบ้าง สำหรับเรา เปิดใจสบายๆ สังเกตด้วยความสงสัย (หยุด)

ให้นำการรับรู้มาอยู่กับสัมผัส ก้นที่สัมผัสกับเก้าอี้ สัมผัสกับเบาะรอง หรือสัมผัสกับพื้นว่ารู้สึกอย่างไร สบายมั๊ย ถ้าไม่สบายสามารถขยับท่าทางให้สบายที่สุด (หยุด) รับรู้ถึงสัมผัส มือของเราที่สัมผัสกันอยู่ มือของเราที่สัมผัสกับต้นขาอยู่ หรือมือของเราที่วางสัมผัสอยู่บนโต๊ะ รับรู้ถึงสัมผัสนั้นใหม่ (หยุด) เราค่อยๆ สังเกตสัมผัสกายของเราโดยไม่ต้องตัดสิน วิเคราะห์ หรือต่อต้านเขาใดๆ มองเขาด้วยความสงสัย เรียนรู้สัมผัสกายให้ได้มากที่สุด (หยุด) ถ้าในขณะที่เรานั่งอยู่ตอนนี้มีความคิด อาจจะมีหนึ่งความคิดหรือหลายความคิดเข้ามา ไม่เป็นไรเลย ไม่เป็นไรที่จะมีความคิดผุดขึ้นมา ให้เขามาและไปอย่างอิสระ ไม่ต้องพยายามดึงเขาไว้ หรือผลักเขาออกไป เพียงรับรู้ว่าเขาอยู่ตรงนี้ ปลดปล่อยเขาไว้ และนำการรับรู้ของเรากลับมาที่สัมผัสกาย (หยุด) บางครั้งใจของเราอาจจะล่องลอยไปไหนต่อไหน เมื่อเรารู้ทันตัวเอง ให้รับรู้ว่ามีใจเรากำลังล่องลอย มองเห็นสิ่งที่ทำให้ใจเราล่องลอย และค่อยๆ นำการรับรู้กลับมาที่ร่างกายของเรา ให้เราระลึกไว้ว่าเรากำลังเรียนรู้ทักษะที่สำคัญ จงเมตตาตัวเอง หากใจเราล่องลอยไปสัก 1,000 ครั้ง เราเพียงนำใจเรากลับมาอยู่กับปัจจุบัน 1,000 ครั้งเท่านั้นเอง (หยุด)

เสียงรอบๆข้าง เราได้ยินอะไรบ้าง ลองฟัง ได้ยินไหม เสียงผู้คนคุยกัน เสียงนก เสียงสัตว์ เสียงลม เสียงต้นไม้ เสียงพัดลม เสียงแอร์ เสียงรถที่แล่นผ่านไปมา เสียงอะไรบ้างที่เราได้ยิน (หยุด) หากมีความคิดล่องลอยเข้ามา เราแค่รับรู้ และกลับมาอยู่กับ การได้ยินเสียงรอบๆ ตัว ในปัจจุบัน (หยุด)

ลมหายใจ ลองสังเกตลมหายใจของเรา รับรู้ได้ไหมถึงลมหายใจที่ผ่านเข้าไปและผ่านออกมา จากโพรงจมูก (หยุด) ลองสังเกตการหายใจของตัวเอง ไม่ต้องพยายามที่จะหายใจลึก ไม่ต้องพยายามอะไรเลย แค่สังเกตว่าการหายใจโดยธรรมชาติของเราเป็นอย่างไร (หยุด)



ลองเอามือข้างขวาขึ้นมาวางไว้บนหน้าอกบริเวณตรงกลางเยื้องไปทางซ้าย เล็กน้อย (หยุด) สัมผัสได้ถึงจังหวะการเต้นของหัวใจดวงนี้ของตัวเองไหม ลองดูว่า หัวใจของเราเต้นเป็นอย่างไร หัวใจที่คอยสูบฉีดเลือดเราอยู่ทุกวินาที แม้ในขณะที่เรานอนหลับ ลองขอบคุณหัวใจดวงน้อยๆดวงนี้ที่ทำงานหนัก เพื่อให้เรายังมีชีวิตมาเจอกันในวันนี้ วางใจในร่างกาย วางใจในความรู้สึก วางใจในตัวเอง (หยุดนาน)

ถ้าพร้อมแล้วค่อยๆ เอามือลง รับรู้ว่าตอนนี้เราอยู่ที่ไหน เรากำลังทำอะไร (หยุด) ค่อยๆ ลืมตาและกลับมามองดูด้วยกัน นำพลังงานของการรับรู้ปัจจุบันเก็บไว้กับตัวของเรา รู้ว่าเราอยู่ตรงไหน ตอนนี้ ด้วยกัน (พูดคุยถึงประสบการณ์ที่เกิดขึ้นขณะทำกิจกรรม วินาทีนี้รู้สึกอย่างไร เกิดอะไรขึ้นกับตัวเราขณะทำกิจกรรม สรุปให้เห็นว่าการรับรู้ปัจจุบัน ทำให้เราเห็นภาพของความจริงที่กว้างขึ้นเกี่ยวกับประสบการณ์ที่กำลังเกิดขึ้น รับรู้ข้อมูล รายละเอียดได้มากขึ้น ตามสมาชิกว่า คิดว่าการรับรู้มากขึ้นมีประโยชน์อย่างไร ถ้ามีก็บอกรายละเอียดจะเป็นประโยชน์ต่อเราอย่างไร ทำให้เรามีสติที่จะเห็นทางเลือกหรือความเป็นไปได้มากขึ้น สุดท้ายผู้นำกลุ่มโยงประสบการณ์ของสมาชิกให้เห็นถึงการทำงานร่วมกันของกระบวนการ การยอมรับ การแยกความคิด และการรับรู้ปัจจุบัน)

3. ผู้นำกลุ่มนำกิจกรรม “5-5-5 สังเกต 5 อย่าง” (Notice 5 Things) ดังนี้ กิจกรรม 5-5-5 เป็นกิจกรรมเล็กๆ ง่ายๆ ที่เราสามารถทำได้ทันที เพื่อดึงตัวเรากลับมาอยู่กับปัจจุบัน ดึงกลับมาอยู่กับตัวเองและสถานที่ที่เราอยู่ เราสามารถฝึกกิจกรรมนี้ได้ตลอดทั้งวัน โดยเฉพาะช่วงเวลาที่เรารู้สึกจมอยู่กับความคิดหรือความรู้สึก ให้เราลองทำไปพร้อมๆ กัน เริ่มจากให้เราหยุดนิ่งๆ มองไปรอบๆ ตัวเรา 5 สิ่งที่เรามองเห็นมีอะไรบ้าง (หยุด) ตั้งใจฟัง 5 เสียงที่เราได้ยินมีอะไรบ้าง (หยุด) รับรู้สัมผัสกายของเรา 5 สิ่งสัมผัสกับร่างกายเรามีอะไรบ้าง (เช่น สัมผัสนาฬิกาข้อมือ ผ้าของกางเกงนากับขา ผ้าเท้ากับพื้น หลังชนกับเก้าอี้) (ผู้นำกลุ่มพูดคุยถึงประสบการณ์ที่เกิดขึ้นขณะทำกิจกรรม รู้สึกอย่างไรกับกิจกรรมนี้ แตกต่างจากกิจกรรมแรกอย่างไร สรุปให้เห็นว่าการทำ mindfulness ทำได้หลายรูปแบบ ขึ้นอยู่กับสถานที่ เวลา ความสะดวก ของเรา)



4. ผู้นำกลุ่มพูดถึงการทำกิจกรรม “อยู่กับกิจวัตรประจำวัน” (Mindful Daily Routine) ที่ จะให้เป็นการบ้าน โดยให้สมาชิกฝึกการรับรู้เรื่อยๆ ตลอดทั้งวัน ในช่วงที่เรานึกขึ้นได้ แต่อย่างน้อยวันละ 1 ครั้งให้เราลองนำทักษะการรับรู้มาใช้ขณะทำกิจวัตรประจำวัน อาจจะเป็นงานรีดผ้า ล้างจาน กวาดบ้าน เช่น หากเรากำลังรีดผ้าให้สังเกตสีและ รูปลักษณะของเสื้อผ้าชิ้นนั้น รอยยับก่อนลงเตารีดและความเรียบหลังลงเตารีด รับรู้ เสียงฟูของไอน้ำ เสียงโครงเครงของโต๊ะรีดผ้า เสียงของเตารีดที่เลื่อนไปตามผ้า มองเห็นมือที่กำลังจับเตารีด และการเคลื่อนไหวของมือและแขน หากมีความรู้สึกเบื่อ หรือหงุดหงิดผุดขึ้นมา ก็แค่รับรู้เขา และนำการรับรู้กลับมาที่งานของเรา หากมี ความคิดผุดขึ้นมา ก็แค่รับรู้ และนำการรับรู้กลับมาที่งานตรงหน้า หลายครั้งใจของเรา จะล่องลอยไปที่อื่น เมื่อเรารู้ทัน ก็แค่ตระหนักรู้อย่างอ่อนโยน รู้ว่าอะไรมารบกวนเรา แล้วนำการรับรู้กลับมาอยู่กับกิจกรรมของเรา (ให้ฝึกทักษะ การยอมรับ การแยก ความคิด และการรับรู้ปัจจุบัน) ให้สมาชิกระบุกิจวัตรประจำวันที่จะใช้ฝึกทำกิจกรรมนี้ และมอบหมายให้ฝึกทำกิจกรรม “5-5-5 สังเกต 5 อย่าง” (Notice 5 Things) ระหว่าง วัน

#### การประเมินผล

- (1) สังเกตจากการมีส่วนร่วม การตอบคำถาม แสดงความคิดเห็น และการสะท้อน ความคิด ความรู้สึก
- (1) พิจารณาจากผลการสะท้อนประสบการณ์การฝึกทักษะที่มอบหมายให้เป็นการบ้าน

#### ครั้งที่ 5

เรื่อง ตัวตนเป็นบริบท (Self-as-context)

เวลา 90 นาที

แนวคิดสำคัญ (Key Concept)

กระบวนการตัวตนเป็นบริบท (Self-as-context) เป็นการเรียนรู้และพัฒนาทักษะของการ รับรู้ตนเอง และประสบการณ์ของตนเอง โดยจะให้สมาชิกมองตนเองเป็นผู้สังเกตการณ์ ประสบการณ์ต่างๆ ของตนเอง เป็นการแยกตัวออกมาจากประสบการณ์ที่เกิดขึ้น เพื่อให้สมาชิก

รับรู้ว่าคุณเป็นผู้สังเกตที่ยั่งยืน ข้ามผ่านกาลเวลา ที่มีประสบการณ์กับเรื่องราวชีวิต ความคิด ความรู้สึก ที่ต่างเข้ามา และออกไป เกิดขึ้นและจากไป ตามธรรมชาติของมัน

การทำกลุ่มครั้งที่ 5 นี้เน้นส่งเสริมองค์ประกอบ ความเข้มแข็งในการมองโลก (Coherence) ของตัวแปร ความหมายในชีวิต ซึ่งเกี่ยวกับการเข้าใจและยอมรับประสบการณ์ที่หลากหลายและไม่แน่นอน

#### วัตถุประสงค์

1. เพื่อให้สมาชิกตระหนักรู้ว่าคุณเป็นผู้สังเกตการณ์ที่แยกออกจากประสบการณ์ของตนเอง
2. เพื่อให้สมาชิกเห็นตนเองเป็นผู้สังเกตการณ์ที่ดำรงอยู่ข้ามกาลเวลา ผ่านการมีประสบการณ์กับเหตุการณ์ภายในและภายนอกที่เข้ามาและผ่านไป

#### สื่อและอุปกรณ์

##### อุปกรณ์

1. ดินสอ/ปากกา
2. กระดาษ A4 2 แผ่น
3. เชือก ยาวประมาณ 1 ไม้ม้วน (12") 1 เส้น

#### วิธีดำเนินการ

1. ผู้นำกลุ่มชวนให้สมาชิกทบทวนสิ่งที่ทำไปเมื่อ session 4 และการบ้าน โดยให้แบ่งปันประสบการณ์ของการ “อยู่กับกิจวัตรประจำวัน” (Mindful Daily Routine) และการทำ “5-5-5 สังเกต 5 อย่าง” (Notice 5 Things) รู้สึกอย่างไร ทำได้ ไม่ได้ ได้เรียนรู้อะไรเกี่ยวกับตัวเอง เกี่ยวกับเพื่อน (ขมวดให้สมาชิกเห็นคุณสมบัติ จุดเด่น ของตนเองและของเพื่อนๆ)
2. ผู้นำกลุ่มพาเข้าสู่กระบวนการตัวตนเป็นบริบท (Self-as-context) ด้วยกิจกรรม “การเดินทาง” (The timeline) (เน้นให้มองเห็นตนเองเป็นกระบวนการที่ไม่หยุดนิ่ง, เน้นการมองตัวตนหรือเอกลักษณ์ของตนเองอย่างยืดหยุ่น, เน้นเห็นตนเองเป็นผู้สังเกตการณ์ของเหตุการณ์ทุกอย่างที่กำลังเกิดขึ้น) โดยนำกิจกรรมดังนี้ ให้สมาชิกนำแผ่นกระดาษ A4 2 แผ่นเรียงต่อกันในทางแนวนอน หลังจากนั้นนำเชือกมาวางบน

กระดาษ ให้สมาชิกนึกถึงเหตุการณ์สำคัญในชีวิตมา 4-5 เหตุการณ์ อาจจะเป็น เหตุการณ์ใหญ่ๆ เช่นการเรียนจบม.ปลาย การสูญเสีย การมีแฟน หรือเหตุการณ์ เล็กๆ ที่มีความสำคัญสำหรับเราเช่น ครั้งแรกที่ใครสักคนบอกรักเรา ให้จับวางเชือก เป็นกราฟชีวิต เสมือนกราฟหัวใจ เพื่อแสดงถึงมุมมอง ผลกระทบ ของเหตุการณ์ต่างๆ ในชีวิต ที่มีทั้งขาขึ้นและขาลง โดยใช้เพียงแผ่นกระดาษด้านซ้าย ให้สมาชิกจด ประโยคสั้นๆ เพื่ออธิบายเหตุการณ์ในแต่ละจุดที่เชือกขึ้นและลง หรืออยู่กลางๆ ผู้นำ กลุ่มขออาสา 1 ท่าน ให้แบ่งปันเหตุการณ์ของตนเองตามกราฟเชือก ผู้นำกลุ่มเชิญ ชวนให้สมาชิกเล่ารายละเอียดของเหตุการณ์นั้นเท่าที่จำได้ และให้อธิบายว่าเหตุการณ์ นั้นๆ สำคัญอย่างไรสำหรับสมาชิก พอสมาชิกเล่าเสร็จ ผู้นำกลุ่มขมวดเหตุการณ์ ต่างๆ ในชีวิตของสมาชิก และชวนสมาชิกอาสาสมัครการเดินทางของตนเองบน กระดาษข้างหน้า ปลายเชือกที่ขอบกระดาษด้านซ้ายคือวินาทีที่เกิดมาบนโลกใบนี้ และปลายเชือกที่สิ้นสุดใกล้ขอบกระดาษด้านขวาคือปัจจุบันวันนี้เวลานี้ ถ้ามองที่การ ขึ้นลงจุดต่างๆ ของเชือกเราก็จะเห็น content, event เหตุการณ์ต่างๆ ของชีวิตเรา แต่ ถ้าเราลองจับเชือก ยึดมันออกไปทางขวา มองแบบนี้เราเห็นอะไร? (เราจะเห็นเชือกที่ เชื่อมโยงเรื่องราวต่างๆ เชือกที่วิ่งมาตั้งแต่วันที่เราก่อเกิดจนถึงวินาทีนี้ จากการมอง ตัวเองว่าเป็นเหตุการณ์ต่างๆ กลายเป็นการมองตนเองเป็นบริบทที่เหตุการณ์เหล่านั้น เกิดขึ้น เราไม่ได้เป็นเหตุการณ์เหล่านี้ แต่เรามีประสบการณ์เหล่านี้ เสมือนว่าเราเป็น ผู้คอนเทนเนอร์บรรจุประสบการณ์ และเราก็จะมีประสบการณ์อีกมากมายในการใช้ ชีวิตของเรา และยังมีเหลือกระดาษด้านขวาก็ทั้งแผ่น เป็นอนาคตที่เราจะวาดและปั้น ได้ เราอยากเลือกเดินแบบไหน) ผู้นำกลุ่มชวนสะท้อนประสบการณ์ รู้สึกอย่างไรบ้าง กับการทำกิจกรรมนี้ เพื่อนๆ มีอะไรอยากจะบอกกับเพื่อนคนนี้ไหม เน้นสะท้อนจุด แฉียง ให้กำลังใจ (หากมีเวลา ขอผู้อาสาแบ่งปันเรื่องราวอีก 1 คน)

3. ผู้นำกลุ่มพาทำกิจกรรม "ฉันที่ เป็นผู้สังเกตการณ์" (The observing self) และใช้คำ อุปมาอุปไมย "ท้องฟ้าและสภาพอากาศ" (The sky and the weather metaphor) เพื่อขยายภาพของการมองตนเองแยกออกจากประสบการณ์ โดยนำกิจกรรมดังนี้ ให้ ทุกคนนำการรับรู้มาที่ความรู้สึกของตัวเอง ตอนนี้เรารู้สึกอย่างไร ในขณะที่เรากำลัง

มองความรู้สึกนี้ ให้เราตระหนักรู้ว่าเราเป็นคนที่มองเขาอยู่ พื้นที่ตรงนี้มีความรู้สึก และก็มีเราที่กำลังมองเขาอยู่ ความจริงของความรู้สึกนั้นคือ ความรู้สึก อารมณ์ของเราเปลี่ยนแปลงอยู่เรื่อยๆ บางครั้งเรารู้สึกเศร้า บางครั้งเรารู้สึกมีความสุข บางครั้งเรารู้สึกสงบนิ่ง บางครั้งเรารู้สึกโกรธ ท่ามกลางความเปลี่ยนแปลงนี้สิ่งที่ไม่เคยเปลี่ยนคือเรา เราที่เป็นผู้มองความรู้สึกเหล่านี้ ให้เรามองความรู้สึกของเรา ณ ตอนนี้อีกครั้ง ตระหนักรู้ว่าเรากำลังมองเขาอยู่ พื้นที่ตรงนี้มีความรู้สึก และก็มีเรา เหมือนดังห้องฟ้าที่มีสภาพอากาศแปรเปลี่ยนตลอดเวลา ไม่ว่าจะสภาพอากาศจะแปรปรวนแค่ไหน ไม่ว่าจะพายุจะรุนแรงระดับไหน หรือไม่ว่าแดดจะแรงเพียงใด ห้องฟ้ายิ่งใหญ่และมีพื้นที่ให้ประสบการณ์ทั้งหมด และทำที่สุดห้องฟ้าก็ยังอยู่อย่างเดิม ข้ามผ่านกาลเวลาและทุกๆ สภาพอากาศและฤดูกาล ห้องฟ้าก็ยังกลับมาใสและสงบอย่างที่เขาคือ (เราคือห้องฟ้า และสภาพอากาศคือความคิด ความรู้สึก ภาพจำ) เป็นอย่างไรบ้าง

4. ผู้นำกลุ่มให้สมาชิกฝึก "ฉันที่ผู้สังเกตการณ์" (The observing self) เป็นการบ้าน โดยอธิบายดังนี้ ขณะที่เราใช้ชีวิตตามปกติ ฝึกสังเกตความรู้สึก ความคิดปฏิกิริยาของร่างกาย เห็นความต้องการ ความทรงจำ ที่เกิดขึ้น ฝึกที่จะสังเกตเขา วางเขาไว้ในมืออย่างทะนุถนอมเหมือนผีเสื้อ มองเขาเป็นประสบการณ์ที่กำลังเกิดขึ้น โดยตระหนักรู้ว่าเราคือผู้สังเกตการณ์ทั้งหมด และให้ฝึก "อยู่กับกิจวัตรประจำวัน" (Mindful Daily Routine) และ "5-5-5 สังเกต 5 อย่าง" (Notice 5 Things) อย่างต่อเนื่อง (สามารถนำ "ฉันที่ผู้สังเกตการณ์" (The observing self) ไปทำร่วมกับกิจกรรม mindfulness)

#### การประเมินผล

1. (1-2) สังเกตจากการมีส่วนร่วม การตอบคำถาม แสดงความคิดเห็น และการสะท้อนความคิด ความรู้สึก
2. (1-2) พิจารณาจากผลการสะท้อนประสบการณ์การฝึกทักษะที่มอบหมายให้เป็นการบ้าน

ครั้งที่ 6

เรื่อง การระบุค่านิยม (Values)

เวลา 90 นาที

แนวคิดสำคัญ (Key Concept)

การระบุค่านิยม (Values) เป็นการฝึกทักษะของการสำรวจคุณค่าหรือค่านิยมที่สำคัญสำหรับสมาชิก เป็นสิ่งที่สมาชิกให้ค่า มองว่ามีความหมาย เพื่อนำมาเป็นหลักในการใช้ชีวิต หรือ เข้มทิศในการเดินทางของสมาชิก การรับรู้คุณค่าที่มีความหมายจะทำให้สมาชิกสามารถตัดสินใจ เรื่องต่างๆ ในชีวิต และใช้ชีวิตด้วยความตั้งใจ และสอดคล้องกับคุณค่าที่ตนเองยึดถือว่าสำคัญ

การทำกลุ่มครั้งที่ 6 นี้เน้นส่งเสริมองค์ประกอบ จุดมุ่งหมายในชีวิต (Purpose) ของตัวแปร ความหมายในชีวิต ซึ่งเกี่ยวกับการมีเป้าหมายที่มีคุณค่าต่อตนเอง เห็นแนวทางการใช้ชีวิตที่ชัดเจน และยังส่งเสริมองค์ประกอบ ความรู้สึกมีความสำคัญ (Significance) ที่เกี่ยวข้องกับ ความรู้สึกว่าชีวิตของตนเองมีความสำคัญและคุ้มค่ากับการมีชีวิตอยู่ต่อ

วัตถุประสงค์

1. เพื่อให้สมาชิกสามารถระบุค่านิยมหรือคุณค่าที่สำคัญสำหรับตนเองในแต่ละด้านของชีวิต

สื่อและอุปกรณ์

อุปกรณ์

1. Google slide
2. กระดาษหรือแอปพลิเคชันสำหรับจดบันทึก
3. ดินสอ/ปากกา

ใบงาน

1. “รายการคุณค่า” (Values list)
2. “คุณค่าที่สำคัญสำหรับฉัน” (Clarify your values worksheet)

วิธีดำเนินการ:

1. ผู้นำกลุ่มชวนให้สมาชิกทบทวนสิ่งที่ทำไปเมื่อ session 5 และการบ้าน โดยให้แบ่งปัน ประสบการณ์ของการทำ “ฉันที่ เป็นผู้สังเกตการณ์” (The observing self) “อยู่กับกิจวัตร

- ประจำวัน” (Mindful Daily Routine) และ “5-5-5 สังเกต 5 อย่าง” (Notice 5 Things) รู้สึกอย่างไร ทำได้ไม่ได้ ได้เรียนรู้อะไรเกี่ยวกับตัวเอง เกี่ยวกับเพื่อน (ขมวดให้สมาชิกเห็นคุณสมบัติ จุดเด่น ของตนเองและของเพื่อนๆ)
2. ผู้นำกลุ่มเชื่อมเข้าหัวข้อของคุณค่าด้วยคำถาม หากความคิดและความรู้สึกไม่ได้เป็นสิ่งที่กำหนดชีวิตของเรา และที่จริงแล้วเราไม่จำเป็นจะต้องแก้ไข หลีกเลี้ยง หรือรอให้ความคิดความรู้สึกหายไป เราจะดำเนินชีวิตอย่างไร อะไรจะเป็นสิ่งที่นำทางเรา?
  3. ผู้นำกลุ่มให้ความรู้ อธิบายคุณค่า (psychoeducation) ความสำคัญของการตระหนักรู้ถึงคุณค่าที่มีความหมายสำหรับเรา บางคุณค่าอาจจะมั่นคงอยู่กับเราไปนานแสนนาน บางคุณค่ามีสิทธิ์เปลี่ยนแปลงตามประสบการณ์ในแต่ละช่วงชีวิต ผู้นำกลุ่มแบ่งปันค่านิยมที่เปลี่ยนไปตามแต่ละช่วงชีวิตของตนผ่าน story-telling และถามถึงคุณค่าในแต่ละช่วงชีวิตที่ผ่านมาของสมาชิก อะไรเป็นสิ่งที่สำคัญใน 1. วัยเด็ก 2. วัยรุ่น 3. ตอนนี้ (เน้นทักษะตัวตนเป็นบริบท)
  4. อธิบายความแตกต่างระหว่างคุณค่าและเป้าหมาย (psychoeducation) คุณค่าเปรียบเสมือนเข็มทิศ ที่บ่งบอกทิศเหนือ ทิศใต้ ทิศตะวันออก และทิศตะวันตก คุณค่าเกี่ยวข้องกับการใช้ชีวิตที่มีความหมาย ไม่ได้เกี่ยวกับการไปถึงที่ใดที่หนึ่ง เราจะไม่สามารถไปถึงคุณค่าของเราได้ ไม่สามารถบรรลุคุณค่าหรือได้มันมาได้ คุณค่ามีหน้าที่ชี้ทาง ส่วนเป้าหมายคือขั้นตอนต่างๆ ที่เราทำเพื่อใช้ชีวิตไปในทิศทางของคุณค่า เป้าหมายจะชัดเจนและบรรลุได้ เช่นถ้าเราอยากได้งานที่ดีกว่านี้ นั่นคือเป้าหมาย เมื่อเราได้งานที่ดีขึ้น เราก็บรรลุเป้าหมายนั้น แต่หากเราต้องการที่จะทำเต็มที่ในหน้าที่การงาน นั่นคือคุณค่า เป็นกระบวนการที่ไม่สิ้นสุด ต่อยอดได้เรื่อยๆ สิ่งที่เราควรพึงระวังคือสิ่งต่างๆ เช่น เงิน ชื่อเสียง ไม่ใช่คุณค่า แต่เป็นสิ่งที่เราสามารถมีหรือครอบครองได้ ซึ่งอาจจะเกี่ยวข้องหรือไม่เกี่ยวข้องกับคุณค่าของเรา (เราอยากเป็นคนแบบไหน อยากใช้ชีวิตอย่างไร)
  5. ผู้นำกลุ่มนำกิจกรรม “ทบทวนคุณค่าที่สำคัญในชีวิต” (Values reflection) ดังนี้ ผู้นำกลุ่มถามคำถามและให้เวลาสมาชิกใช้เวลาเงียบๆ ในการทบทวนคำถามและเขียนคำตอบ (1) ให้นึกถึงบุคคลคนที่เรารัก ชื่นชอบ หรือ รัก หรือมองเป็นบุคคลต้นแบบ บุคคลนั้นๆ เขาเป็นคนแบบไหน เขามีอะไร ทำไมเราถึงชอบเขา เขามีคุณค่าหรือแสดงออกถึงคุณค่าแบบ



ไหน ตัวอย่างเช่น เราชื่นชมคุณตาสำหรับการยอมรับและความรักที่เขามี คุณแม่สำหรับความซื่อสัตย์ เพื่อนสำหรับการเป็นผู้ฟังที่ดี หรือ เพื่อนสนิทสำหรับความภักดี ลองนึกมาสัก 3 คน (ใช้เวลาเขียน) (2) เราสามารถนึกถึงประสบการณ์ในอดีตของเรา เรามีประสบการณ์อะไรบ้างที่น่าจดจำ ที่สุดยอดที่สุดในชีวิต อะไรทำให้มันเป็นประสบการณ์ที่สุดยอด ในทางกลับกันเรามีประสบการณ์อะไรบ้างที่เจ็บปวดที่สุดในชีวิต อะไรที่ทำให้มันเป็นประสบการณ์ที่เจ็บปวด (ใช้เวลาเขียน) ชวนสมาชิก 1-2 คน แบ่งปันคุณค่าที่ตนได้ระบุ และที่มาของคุณค่านั้นๆ รู้สึกอย่างไรกับกิจกรรมนี้ ได้เรียนรู้อะไรบ้าง

6. หลังจากที่ได้กระตุ้นความคิดของสมาชิก ผู้นำกลุ่มชวนทำกิจกรรม "คุณค่าบนกระดาน" (Values on the whiteboard) โดยให้ "รายการคุณค่า" (Values list) ในทุกคนได้ลองอ่าน รู้สึกอย่างไรกับลิสต์นี้ หลังจากนั้นแสดง google slide ด้านต่างๆ ของชีวิต ให้เวลาสมาชิกในการระดมความคิด ใส่คุณค่าที่สำคัญสำหรับเราในแต่ละด้าน (ใช้เวลา 10 นาที) ช่วงการพูดคุย ให้เริ่มการแบ่งปันจากด้านที่หนึ่งของชีวิต เราเห็นอะไร ใครใส่คุณค่าด้านนี้บ้าง ทำซ้ำทุกๆ ด้านของชีวิต สรุป ความรู้สึก เห็นความต่าง ความเหมือน มีใครได้คุณค่าใหม่บ้าง
7. ผู้นำกลุ่มส่งใบงาน "คุณค่าที่สำคัญสำหรับฉัน" (Clarify your values worksheet) ผ่านช่องทาง ให้สมาชิกได้ทบทวนคุณค่าแบบดั่งอยู่กับตัวเองมากขึ้น ผู้นำกลุ่มอธิบายใบงานโดยเน้นที่การอธิบายด้านต่างๆ ของชีวิตผ่านการถามคำถามต่อๆ กัน เราต้องการอะไร ลึกๆ แล้วความต้องการที่แท้จริงของเราคืออะไร? / เราอยากจะมีความสัมพันธ์แบบไหน กับเพื่อน กับครอบครัว พ่อแม่พี่น้อง กับแฟนหรือคู่ชีวิตในปัจจุบันหรืออนาคต / เรามักฝันว่าอยากจะทำอะไรในยามว่าง? / ถ้าเราอดฝันได้แบบไม่มีขีดจำกัด เราอยากทำอาชีพอะไร ลักษณะของอาชีพเป็นแบบไหน? / เราอยาก让生活ยืนหยัดเพื่ออะไร? / เราอยากเป็นคนแบบไหน? ถ้าตัวเราไม่อยู่แล้ว อยากจะให้ครอบครัว คนสำคัญ เพื่อนๆ คนรู้จัก พุดถึงเราว่าอย่างไร? / ความเชื่อ หรือศาสนาสำคัญสำหรับเราอย่างไร?
8. ผู้นำกลุ่มให้ psychoeducation สั้นๆ เกี่ยวกับอุปสรรคที่มักขวางการใช้ชีวิตตามคุณค่า (เช่น การพยายามควบคุม หลีกหนีประสบการณ์ที่ไม่พึงชอบ, การเลือกใช้ชีวิตตามคุณค่า เพราะอยากได้สิ่งอื่นๆ เช่น อยากทำดีกับเพื่อน เพื่อนจะได้มองว่าเราเป็นคนดี, การเลือก



คุณค่าที่สังคมมองว่าดีหรือควรมี, คุณค่าที่ไม่ได้ความหมายทางใจสำหรับเรา) ให้ความสำคัญ  
ในงาน ให้ทำต่อให้เสร็จเป็นการบ้าน และให้ฝึก “อยู่กับกิจวัตรประจำวัน” (Mindful Daily  
Routine) และ “5-5-5 สังเกต 5 อย่าง” (Notice 5 Things) อย่างต่อเนื่อง

#### การประเมินผล

1. (1) สังเกตจากการมีส่วนร่วม การตอบคำถาม แสดงความคิดเห็น และการสะท้อน  
ความคิด ความรู้สึก
2. (1) พิจารณาจากคำตอบบนใบงานที่มอบหมายให้เป็นการบ้าน



### ใบงาน 6.1 “รายการคุณค่า” (Values list)

|   |  |                                  |
|---|--|----------------------------------|
| การยอมรับ (ตนเอง ผู้อื่น สิ่ง<br>ที่เกิดขึ้น) | 21. ความยืดหยุ่น                         | 43. การมีอำนาจ                   |
| 1. การพจัญภัย                                 | 22. อิศรภาพ                              | 44. การพึ่งพากันและกัน           |
| 2. ความกล้าแสดงออก                            | 23. ความเป็นมิตร                         | 45. การผ่อนคลาย                  |
| 3. ความงาม                                    | 24. การให้อภัย (ตนเอง<br>ผู้อื่น)        | 46. ความเคารพ (ตนเอง<br>ผู้อื่น) |
| 4. การดูแลเอาใจใส่<br>(ตนเอง ผู้อื่น)         | 25. ความเข้มแข็ง                         | 47. ความรับผิดชอบ                |
| 5. ความท้าทาย                                 | 26. ความสนุก                             | 48. ความโรแมนติก                 |
| 6. ความเมตตากรุณา<br>(ต่อตนเอง ผู้อื่น)       | 27. ความเอื้ออาทร                        | 49. ความปลอดภัย                  |
| 7. การเชื่อมโยง                               | 28. ความกตัญญู                           | 50. ความตระหนักรู้ใน<br>ตนเอง    |
| 8. การสร้างความ<br>เปลี่ยนแปลง                | 29. ความรู้สึกขอบคุณ                     | 51. การดูแลตนเอง                 |
| 9. การปรับตัวให้เข้ากับ<br>ผู้อื่น สังคม      | 30. อารมณ์ขัน                            | 52. การพัฒนาตนเอง                |
| 10. ความร่วมมือ                               | 31. ความอ่อนน้อมถ่อม<br>ตน               | 53. การควบคุมตนเอง               |
| 11. ความกล้าหาญ                               | 32. ความเป็นอิสระ                        | 54. ความจริงใจ                   |
| 12. ความคิดสร้างสรรค์                         | 33. ความซื่อสัตย์ (ต่อ<br>ตนเอง ผู้อื่น) | 55. การเชื่อมโยงกับจิต<br>วิญญาณ |
| 13. ความอยากรู้ / ความ<br>ใฝ่รู้              | 34. ความใกล้ชิด                          | 56. ความชำนาญ                    |
| 14. ความมุ่งมั่น                              | 35. ความใจดี                             | 57. ความช่วยเหลือ                |
| 15. ความมีระเบียบวินัย                        | 36. ความรัก                              | 58. การไว้วางใจ / การ<br>เชื่อใจ |
| 16. การให้กำลังใจ                             | 37. การมีสติ / การรับรู้<br>ปัจจุบัน     | 59. อื่นๆ:                       |
| 17. ความเท่าเทียมกัน                          | 38. ความเป็นระเบียบ<br>เรียบร้อย         | 60. อื่นๆ:                       |
| 18. ความตื่นตัว                               | 39. การเปิดใจรับความ<br>แตกต่าง          | 61. อื่นๆ:                       |
| 19. ความยุติธรรม                              | 40. ความอดทน                             |                                  |
| 20. สุขภาพแข็งแรง                             | 41. ความพยายาม                           |                                  |
|   | 42. ความรื่นเริง                         |                                  |

## ใบงาน 6.2 “คุณค่าที่สำคัญสำหรับฉัน” (Clarify your values worksheet)

ค่านิยมหรือคุณค่าคือความปรารถนาที่โลกที่สุขของหัวใจ ที่บ่งบอกว่าคุณอยากจะเป็นแบบไหน อยากจะใช้ชีวิตแบบไหน คุณค่าไม่ใช่สิ่งที่คุณอยากได้หรืออยากทำให้สำเร็จ แต่เป็นสิ่งที่คุณอยากจะเป็น แนวทางการใช้ชีวิต รวมถึงวิธีที่คุณอยากปฏิบัติต่อตนเอง ผู้อื่น และโลกรอบๆ ตัวคุณ

คุณค่าที่สำคัญมีเป็นร้อยๆ ข้อ เอกสารนี้ได้รวบรวมคุณค่าที่คนทั่วไปยึดถือมากที่สุดไว้ในตาราง ไม่ใช้ทุกข้อที่จะสัมพันธ์หรือสำคัญสำหรับคุณ ไม่มีคุณค่าไหนที่เป็นคุณค่าที่ถูกต้องหรือคุณค่าที่ผิด ให้มองคุณค่าเหมือนรสชาติอาหาร ที่เป็นเพียงความชอบที่คนเราสามารถมีได้เหมือนหรือต่างกัน

คุณค่าที่เรายึดถือว่าสำคัญ สามารถที่จะแตกต่างกันออกไปสำหรับแต่ละด้านของชีวิต คุณสามารถอ่านรายการด้านล่างที่เป็นรายการของด้านต่างๆ ของชีวิตที่สัมพันธ์กับคนทั่วไปมากที่สุด รวมถึงคำถามชวนคิดของแต่ละด้าน ไม่ใช้ทุกด้านที่จะสัมพันธ์กับคุณ

### ด้านต่างๆ ของชีวิต

1. ความสัมพันธ์ในครอบครัว: คุณอยากเป็น พี่ชาย/น้องสาว ลูกชาย/ลูกสาว แบบไหน คุณอยากนำคุณสมบัติส่วนตัวแบบไหนมาใช้ภายในครอบครัว  
คุณอยากมีความสัมพันธ์ครอบครัวแบบไหน
2. ความสัมพันธ์กับคนรัก: คุณอยากเป็นคนรักแบบไหน คุณอยากพัฒนาคุณสมบัตินี้อะไรบ้างในการเป็นคนรัก คุณอยากมีความสัมพันธ์กับคนรักแบบ  
ไหน
3. ความสัมพันธ์กับเพื่อน: คุณอยากนำคุณสมบัติส่วนตัวแบบไหนมาใช้กับเพื่อนๆ ถ้าคุณสมบัตินั้นเป็นเพื่อนที่ดีที่สุดได้ คุณจะปฏิบัติต่อเพื่อนอย่างไร  
คุณอยากสร้างความสัมพันธ์แบบไหนกับเพื่อน
4. การศึกษา: การศึกษาหรือการเรียนรู้สำคัญอย่างไรสำหรับคุณ คุณอยากได้อะไรจากการเรียนรู้ คุณอยากเป็นนักเรียนแบบไหน คุณอยากจะทำ  
คุณสมบัติส่วนตัวอะไรมาใช้ในการเป็นนักเรียน

















## ครั้งที่ 7

เรื่อง การระบุค่านิยม (Values) & การลงมือปฏิบัติตามพันธสัญญา (Committed action)

เวลา 90 นาที

แนวคิดสำคัญ (Key Concept)

การระบุค่านิยม (Values) เป็นการฝึกทักษะของการสำรวจคุณค่าหรือค่านิยมที่สำคัญสำหรับสมาชิก เป็นสิ่งที่สมาชิกให้ค่า มองว่ามีความหมาย เพื่อนำมาเป็นหลักในการใช้ชีวิต หรือเข็มทิศในการเดินทางของสมาชิก การรับรู้คุณค่าที่มีความหมายจะทำให้สมาชิกสามารถตัดสินใจเรื่องต่างๆ ในชีวิต และใช้ชีวิตด้วยความตั้งใจ และสอดคล้องกับคุณค่าที่ตนเองยึดถือว่าสำคัญ

การลงมือปฏิบัติตามพันธสัญญา (Committed Action) เป็นการฝึกทักษะการตั้งเป้าหมายที่สอดคล้องกับคุณค่า เพื่อให้สมาชิกไม่เพียงรับรู้คุณค่า แต่ทำให้เกิดการเปลี่ยนแปลงทางพฤติกรรม กำหนดขั้นตอนการใช้ชีวิตอย่างชัดเจน และลงมือทำให้ชีวิตเคลื่อนไปในทางของคุณค่าอย่างมีความหมาย

การทำกลุ่มครั้งที่ 7 นี้เน้นส่งเสริมองค์ประกอบ จุดมุ่งหมายในชีวิต (Purpose) ของตัวแปรความหมายในชีวิต ซึ่งเกี่ยวกับการมีเป้าหมายที่มีคุณค่าต่อตนเอง เห็นแนวทางการใช้ชีวิตที่ชัดเจน และยังส่งเสริมองค์ประกอบ ความรู้สึที่มีความสำคัญ (Significance) ที่เกี่ยวข้องกับความรู้สึกว่าชีวิตของตนเองมีความสำคัญและคุ้มค่ากับการมีชีวิตอยู่ต่อ

วัตถุประสงค์

1. เพื่อให้สมาชิกสามารถระบุค่านิยมหรือคุณค่าที่สำคัญสำหรับตนเองในแต่ละด้านของชีวิต
2. เพื่อให้สมาชิกตรวจสอบและยืนยันว่าคุณค่าที่ระบุมา เป็นคุณค่าที่แท้จริง ซึ่งต่างจากเป้าหมาย
3. เพื่อให้สมาชิกเริ่มคำนึงถึงการตั้งเป้าหมายที่สอดคล้องกับคุณค่าของชีวิต

สื่อและอุปกรณ์

อุปกรณ์

1. กระดาษหรือแอปพลิคชันสำหรับจดบันทึก

## 2. ดินสอ/ปากกา

### ใบงาน

1. “คุณค่าที่สำคัญสำหรับฉัน” (Clarify your values worksheet)
2. "เป้าหมายของฉัน" (Goal setting worksheet)

### วิธีดำเนินการ

1. ผู้นำกลุ่มชวนให้สมาชิกทบทวนสิ่งที่ทำไปเมื่อ session 6 และการบ้าน โดยให้แบ่งปันประสบการณ์ของการทำ “คุณค่าที่สำคัญสำหรับฉัน” (Clarify your values worksheet) เป็นอย่างไรบ้าง แตกต่างออกไปจากตอนที่ทำ “คุณค่าบนกระดาน” (Values on the whiteboard) บ้างไหม ค้นพบอะไร
2. ผู้นำกลุ่มชวนสมาชิกแลกเปลี่ยนความคิดเห็น (Values discussion) มีคุณค่าไหนใหม่ที่ปรากฏในหลายๆ ด้านของชีวิตบ้าง คือคุณค่าอะไร (พอสมาชิกหนึ่งคนแบ่งปัน ผู้นำกลุ่มโยนกับสมาชิกคนอื่นๆ เช่น การถามว่า มีใครให้ความสำคัญกับคุณค่าข้อนี้ด้วยมั๊ย) หลังจากนั้นกลับมาถามสมาชิกท่านแรกที่แบ่งปันว่า มีอะไรที่เราทำอยู่แล้วในชีวิตประจำวันที่เป็นการใช้หรือแสดงออกคุณค่าพวกนี้ (ผู้นำกลุ่มโยนกับสมาชิกคนอื่นๆ โดยการถามว่า ใครแสดงคุณค่านี้นี้ เหมือนหรือต่างออกไปอย่างไร)
3. หลังจากที่สมาชิกทุกคนมีความชัดเจนเกี่ยวกับคุณค่าของตนเอง ผู้นำกลุ่มพาเข้ากิจกรรม “คำปฏิญาณของฉัน” (My values pledge) เพื่อตอกย้ำคุณค่าที่สำคัญลึกเข้าไปในจิตใจของสมาชิก โดยให้สมาชิกตั้งปฏิญาณว่าจะใช้ชีวิตให้สอดคล้องกับคุณค่า ในการปฏิญาณตน ให้เลือกคุณค่ามา 3 ข้อ (ที่มีความถี่ที่สุดในด้านต่างๆ ของชีวิต) ให้สมาชิกทำมือด้านขวาเป็นกำปั้นและนำมาวางไว้ที่หน้าอกตรงตำแหน่งของหัวใจ และใช้มือด้านซ้ายกุมกำปั้นมือขวา หลังจากนั้นให้พูดประโยคที่ว่า “ฉันขอตั้งปฏิญาณว่า จะใช้... (คุณค่า)... ในการนำทางตัวของฉัน” พูดแบบนี้สำหรับคุณค่า 2 ข้อที่เหลือ รู้สึกอย่างไร
4. สุดท้ายผู้นำกลุ่มพาทำกิจกรรม “สิ่งเล็กๆ ที่ทำได้” (The smallest thing I can do) ให้เวลาทุกคนได้เขียนเป้าหมายที่สามารถทำได้ทันทีภายใน 24 ชั่วโมง สำหรับคุณค่า 3 ตัวที่ได้ตั้งปฏิญาณไป “อะไรคือสิ่งเล็กๆ ง่ายๆ ที่สามารถทำได้ใน 24 ชั่วโมงข้างหน้า ที่จะเป็น

การแสดงออกถึงคุณค่านั้นในชีวิตของเรา” ให้สมาชิกเขียนลงในกระดาษที่เตรียมมาและแบ่งปันกับกลุ่ม (สร้าง commitment) โดยให้ไปทำเป้าหมายเหล่านี้เป็นการบ้าน และให้ฝึก “อยู่กับกิจวัตรประจำวัน” (Mindful Daily Routine) และ “5-5-5 สังเกต 5 อย่าง” (Notice 5 Things) อย่างต่อเนื่อง

#### การประเมินผล

1. (1-3) สังเกตจากการมีส่วนร่วม การตอบคำถาม แสดงความคิดเห็น และการสะท้อนความคิด ความรู้สึก
2. (1-3) พิจารณาจากคำตอบบนใบงานที่มอบหมายให้เป็นการบ้าน



### ใบงาน 7.1 “คุณค่าที่สำคัญสำหรับฉัน” (Clarify your values worksheet)

ค่านิยมหรือคุณค่าคือความปรารถนาที่โลกที่สุขของหัวใจ ที่บ่งบอกว่าคุณอยากจะเป็นแบบไหน อยากจะใช้ชีวิตแบบไหน คุณค่าไม่ใช่สิ่งที่คุณอยากได้หรืออยากทำให้สำเร็จ แต่เป็นสิ่งที่คุณอยากจะเป็น แนวทางการใช้ชีวิต รวมถึงวิธีที่คุณอยากปฏิบัติต่อตนเอง ผู้อื่น และโลกรอบๆ ตัวคุณ

คุณค่าที่สำคัญมีเป็นร้อยๆ ข้อ เอกสารนี้ได้รวบรวมคุณค่าที่คนทั่วไปยึดถือมากที่สุดไว้ในตาราง ไม่ใช่ว่าข้อที่จะสัมพันธ์หรือสำคัญสำหรับคุณ ไม่มีคุณค่าไหนที่เป็นคุณค่าที่ถูกต้องหรือคุณค่าที่ดี ให้มองคุณค่าเหมือนรสชาติอาหาร ที่เป็นเพียงความชอบที่คนเราสามารถชิมได้เหมือนหรือต่างกัน

คุณค่าที่เรายึดถือว่าสำคัญ สามารถที่จะแตกต่างกันออกไปสำหรับแต่ละด้านของชีวิต คุณสามารถอ่านรายการด้านล่างที่เป็นรายการของด้านต่างๆ ของชีวิตที่สัมพันธ์กับคนทั่วไปมากที่สุด รวมถึงคำถามชวนคิดของแต่ละด้าน ไม่ใช่ว่าด้านที่จะสัมพันธ์กับคุณ

#### ด้านต่างๆ ของชีวิต

1. ความสัมพันธ์ในครอบครัว: คุณอยากเป็น พี่ชาย/น้องสาว ลูกชาย/ลูกสาว แบบไหน คุณอยากนำคุณสมบัตินิสัยส่วนตัวแบบไหนมาใช้ภายในครอบครัว  
คุณอยากมีความสัมพันธ์ครอบครัวแบบไหน
2. ความสัมพันธ์กับคนรัก: คุณอยากเป็นคนรักแบบไหน คุณอยากพัฒนาคุณสมบัตินิสัยอะไรบ้างในการเป็นคนรัก คุณอยากมีความสัมพันธ์กับคนรักแบบ  
ไหน
3. ความสัมพันธ์กับเพื่อน: คุณอยากนำคุณสมบัตินิสัยส่วนตัวแบบไหนมาใช้กับเพื่อนๆ ถ้าคุณสมบัตินิสัยส่วนตัวที่ดีที่สุดที่คุณจะปฏิบัติต่อเพื่อนอย่างไร  
คุณอยากสร้างความสัมพันธ์แบบไหนกับเพื่อน
4. การศึกษา: การศึกษาหรือการเรียนรู้สำคัญอย่างไรสำหรับคุณ คุณอยากได้อะไรจากการเรียนรู้ คุณอยากเป็นนักเรียนแบบไหน คุณอยากจะทำ  
คุณสมบัตินิสัยส่วนตัวอะไรมาใช้ในการเป็นนักเรียน



















## VITA

**NAME** Leelanuch Haputpong

**DATE OF BIRTH** 14 September 1991

**PLACE OF BIRTH** Bangkok, Thailand

**INSTITUTIONS ATTENDED** 2013 Bachelor of Business Administration specializing in Marketing & Psychology, The Australian National University

