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A Comparison of Indonesian and German Adolescents’ Family Models

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This study is part of the VOC-Project (Principal Investigators: Prof. Dr. G. Trommsdorff & Prof. Dr. B. Nauck)
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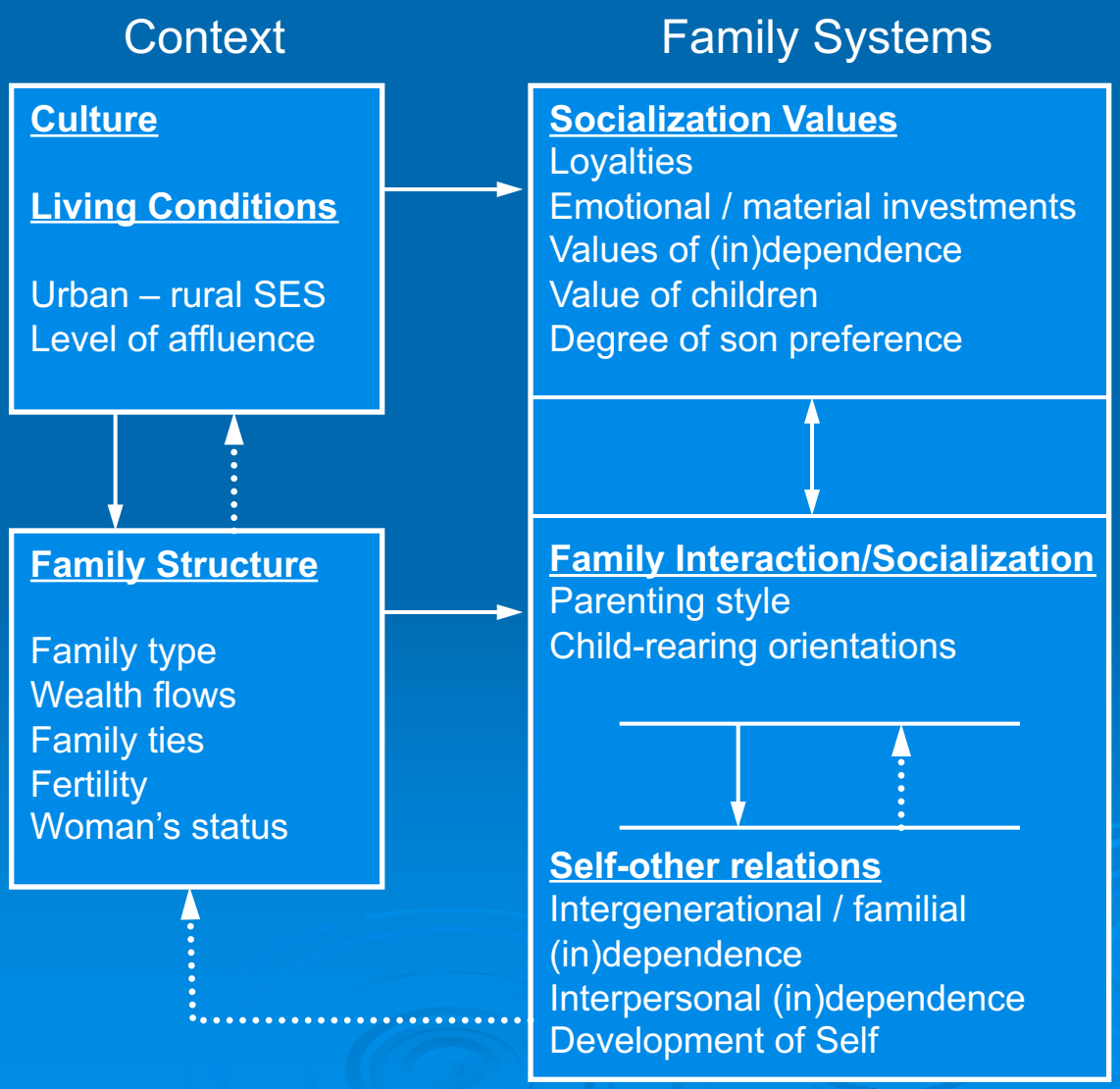
Family Models (Kagitcibasi, 1996)



Family Models (cont.)

- Family Model of Independence
  - Low fertility / Low son preference
  - High emotional VOC
  - (Values of) Emotional & material independence
  - **Low family future orientation (FFO)**

- Family Model of Interdependence
  - High fertility / High son preference
  - High economic / normative VOC
  - (Values of) Emotional & material interdependence
  - **High family future orientation (FFO)**

Family Models (cont.)

- Family Model of Emotional Interdependence
  - Lower fertility / Lower son preference
  - Lower economic / normative & higher emotional VOC
  - (Values of) Emotional interdependence
  - **High family future orientation (FFO), but somewhat lower than in the family model of interdependence**

- **FFO: Concrete future oriented plans concerning marriage, family, and children**

General Hypothesis:

Indonesia: Family model of interdependence

Germany: Family model of independence

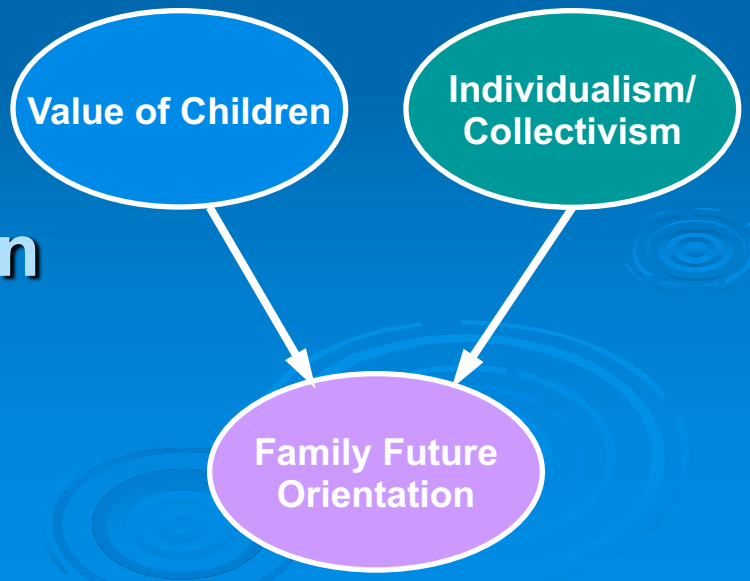
Cultural Characteristics of Indonesia and Germany

- Population (2003)
  - Indonesia: 218 mill. (42% urban; 87% Muslim)
  - Germany: 82,5 mill. (88% urban; 71% Christian)
- Fertility rate (children per woman)
  - Indonesia: 2.4
  - Germany: 1.4
- Value Orientations (Hofstede, 2001)
  - Individualism: Germany > Indonesia (67 vs. 14)
  - Power Distance: Indonesia > Germany (77 vs. 35)

Two perspectives

- Differences between Indonesian & German adolescents' family models with respect to **Values (I/C, VOC)** and **Family Future Orientation**

- Relationship between **Values** and **Family Future Orientation**



Hypotheses: Family Models

1. Individualism / Collectivism
   - Individualism: Germany > Indonesia
   - Collectivism: Indonesia > Germany
2. Value of Children
   - Economic & Normative VOC: Indonesia > Germany
   - Emotional VOC: Germany > Indonesia
3. Family Future Orientation: Indonesians vs. Germans
   - …are more inclined to marry and to have children
   - …want to have more children
   - …show a higher son preference
   - ... in the future family is more important

Hypotheses: Values and FFO

4. In both countries: Collectivism positively & Individualism negatively related to…
   - Marriage plans
   - Plans regarding having children
   - Number of children wanted
   - Son preference
   - Future importance of family

5. In both countries: Economic & Normative VOC positively, Emotional VOC negatively related to…
   - Marriage plans
   - Plans regarding having children
   - Number of children wanted
   - Son preference
   - Future importance of family

Sample

- Indonesia
  - 300 adolescents (135 boys, 165 girls)
  - 86% Sundanese 50% urban/rural
  - 13 – 17 years old M = 15.3 (SD = 1.0)

- Germany
  - 311 adolescents (137 boys, 174 girls)
  - 13 – 18 years old M = 15.7 (SD = 1.1)

Sample Background Information

Religion (%)	Indonesia		Germany
Islam	98.3		0.3
Christian	1.4		45.7
Other	0.3		11.2
None	0.0		40.5
Parental Education (%)	**Urban**	**Rural**	
No schooling	7.5	9.7	0.0
Primary (6+)	20.7	66.6	5.5
Middle (9+)	57.9	22.4	64.8
Higher (16+)	14.0	1.3	29.7
Perceived SES (1-5)	2.95	2.70	3.23

Measures: Values

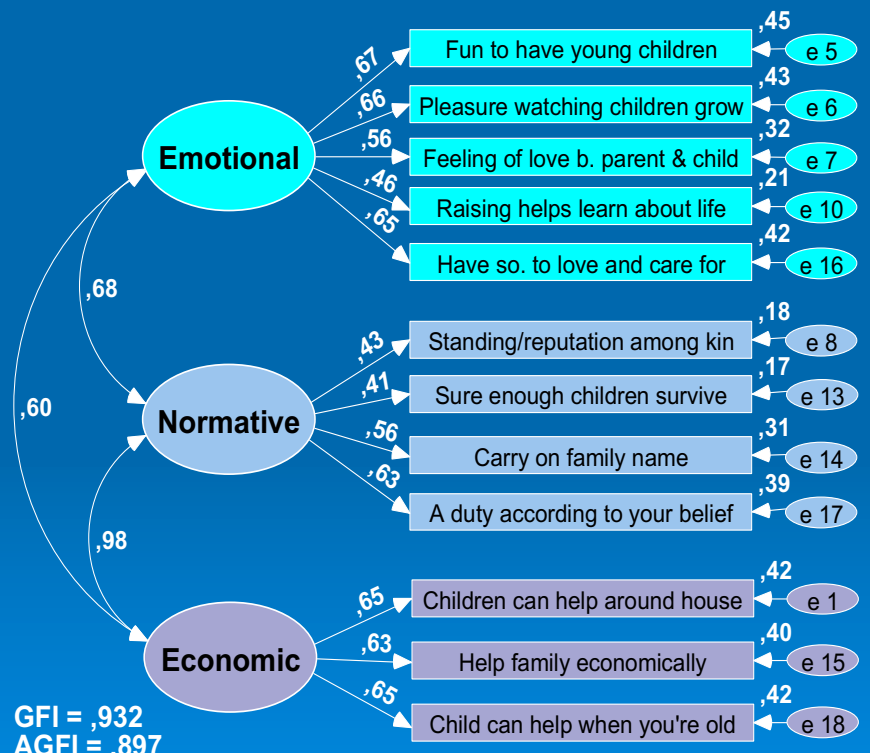
- Individualism/Collectivism (Colindex, Chan, 1994)
  - Individualism: “Exciting life,” “Independence”
  - Collectivism: “Honor of parents,” “Social order”
- Value of Children
  - Emotional: “Because of the pleasure you get from watching your children grow”
  - Normative: “To carry on the family name”
  - Economic: “Children can help you when you’re old”

Measures: Family Future Orientation

- Future relationship / marriage
- Would you like to have children?
- How many children would you like to have?
- Gender preference if only one child
- Future plans: Family most important

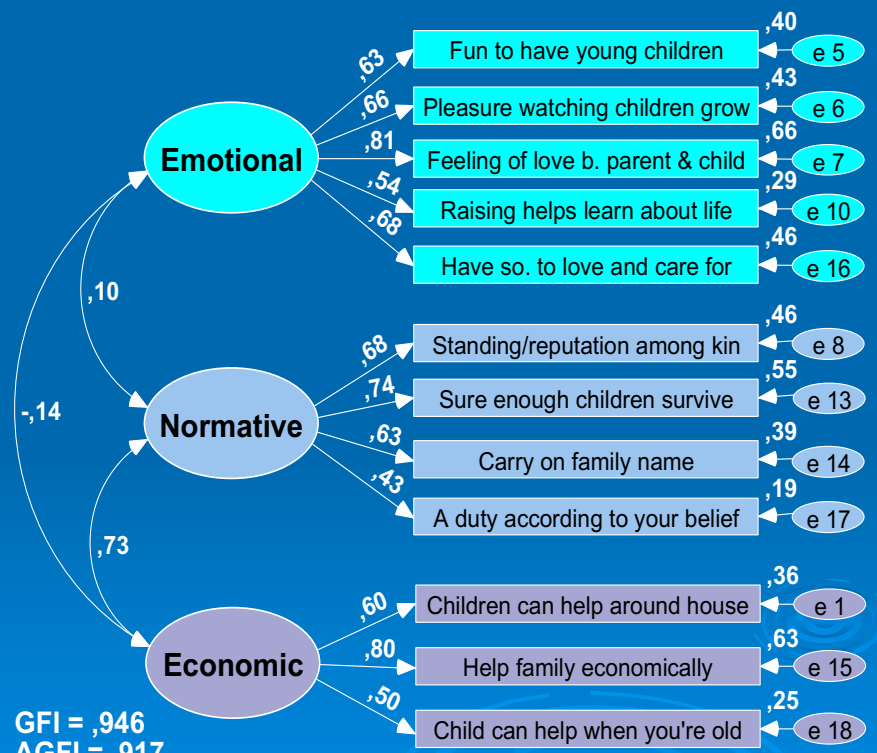
Value of Children Dimensions (1)

Indonesia



GFI = ,932
AGFI = ,897
CFI = ,906
RMSEA = ,071
Chi-square = 126,795 (df = 51), p = ,000

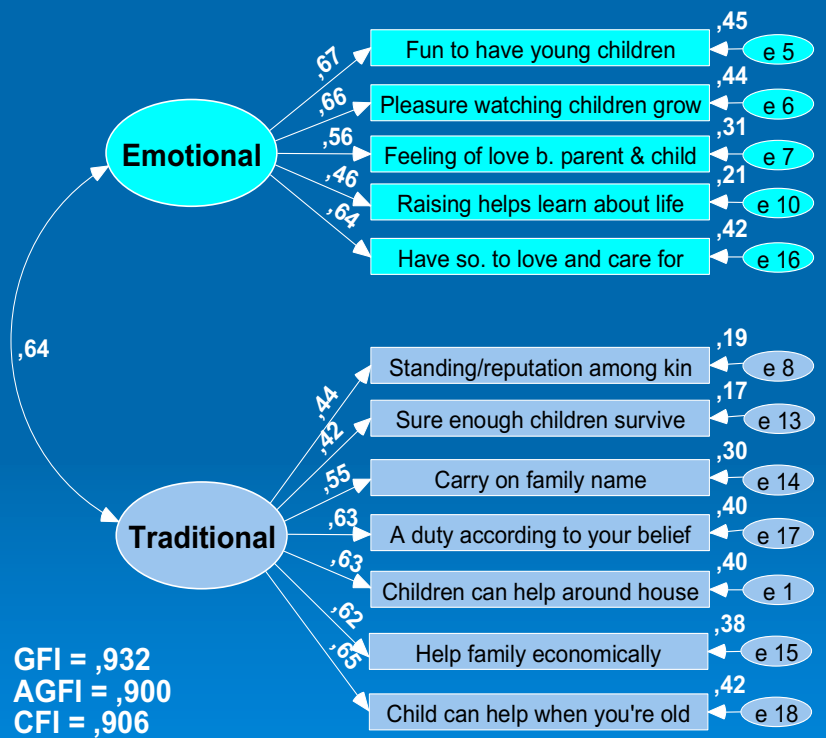
Germany



GFI = ,946
AGFI = ,917
CFI = ,941
RMSEA = ,060
Chi-square = 104,502 (df = 51), p = ,000

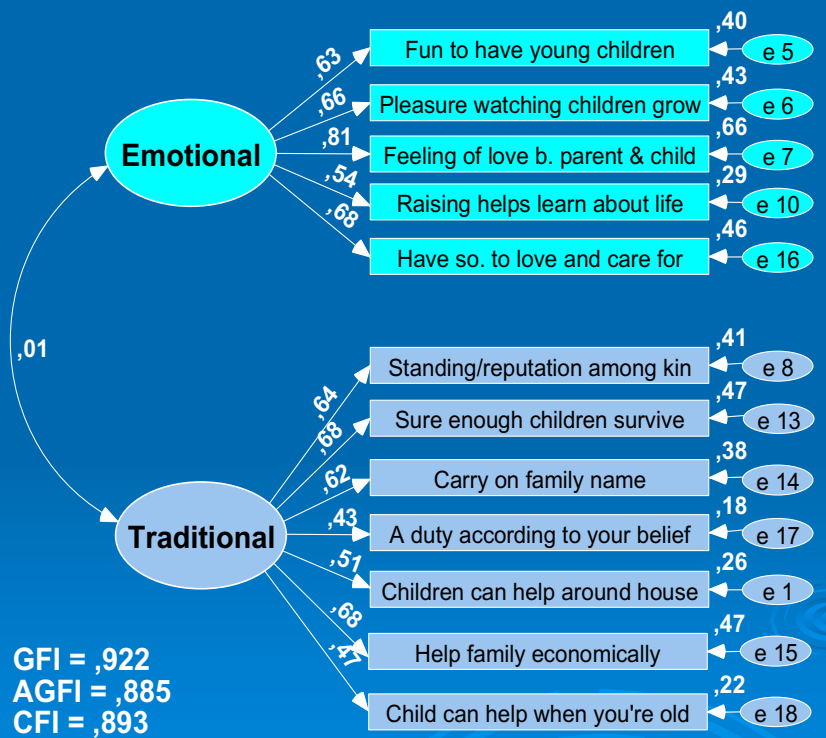
Value of Children Dimensions (2)

Indonesia



GFI = ,932
AGFI = ,900
CFI = ,906
RMSEA = ,069
Chi-square = 128,744 (df = 53), p = ,000

Germany

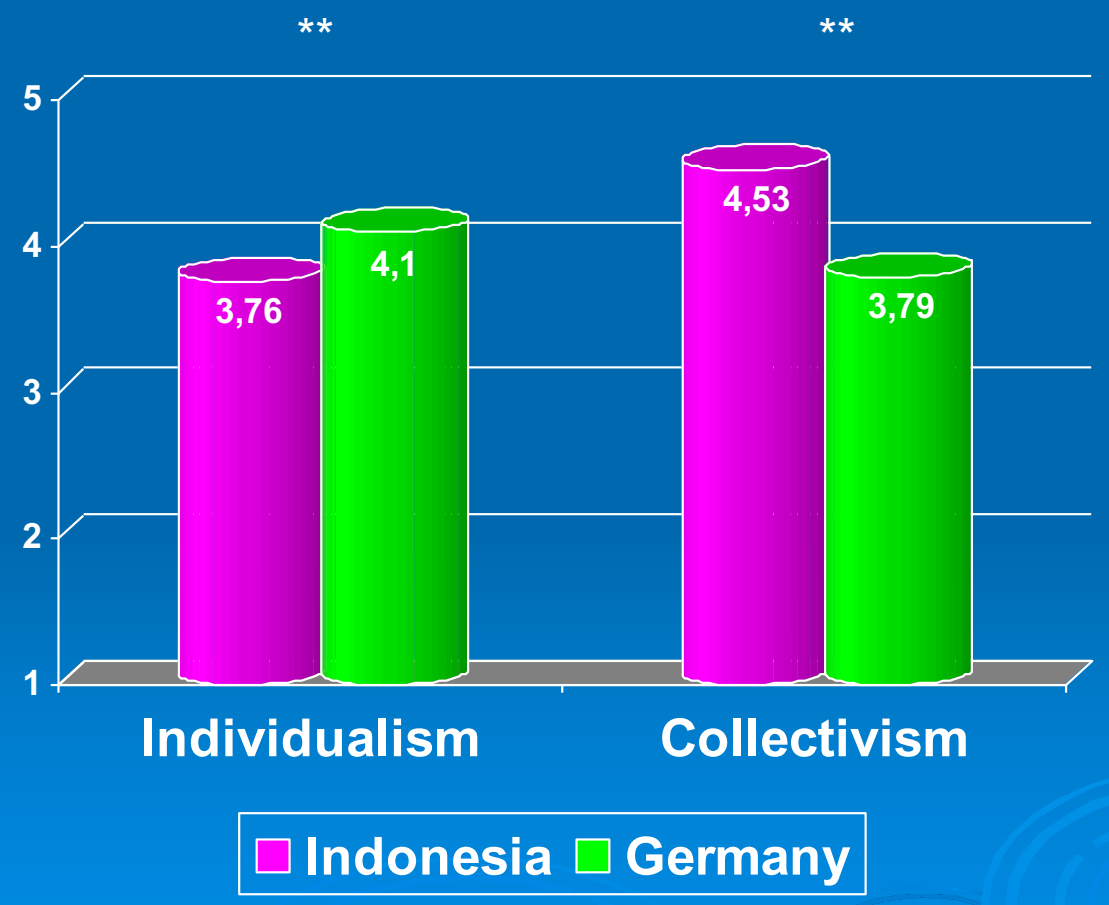


GFI = ,922
AGFI = ,885
CFI = ,893
RMSEA = ,079
Chi-square = 150,253 (df = 53), p = ,000

Reliabilities

	Items	Indonesia	Germany
Individualism	7	.70	.71
Collectivism	6	.74	.76
Emotional VOC	5	.73	.79
Traditional VOC	7	.76	.77

Individualism/Collectivism



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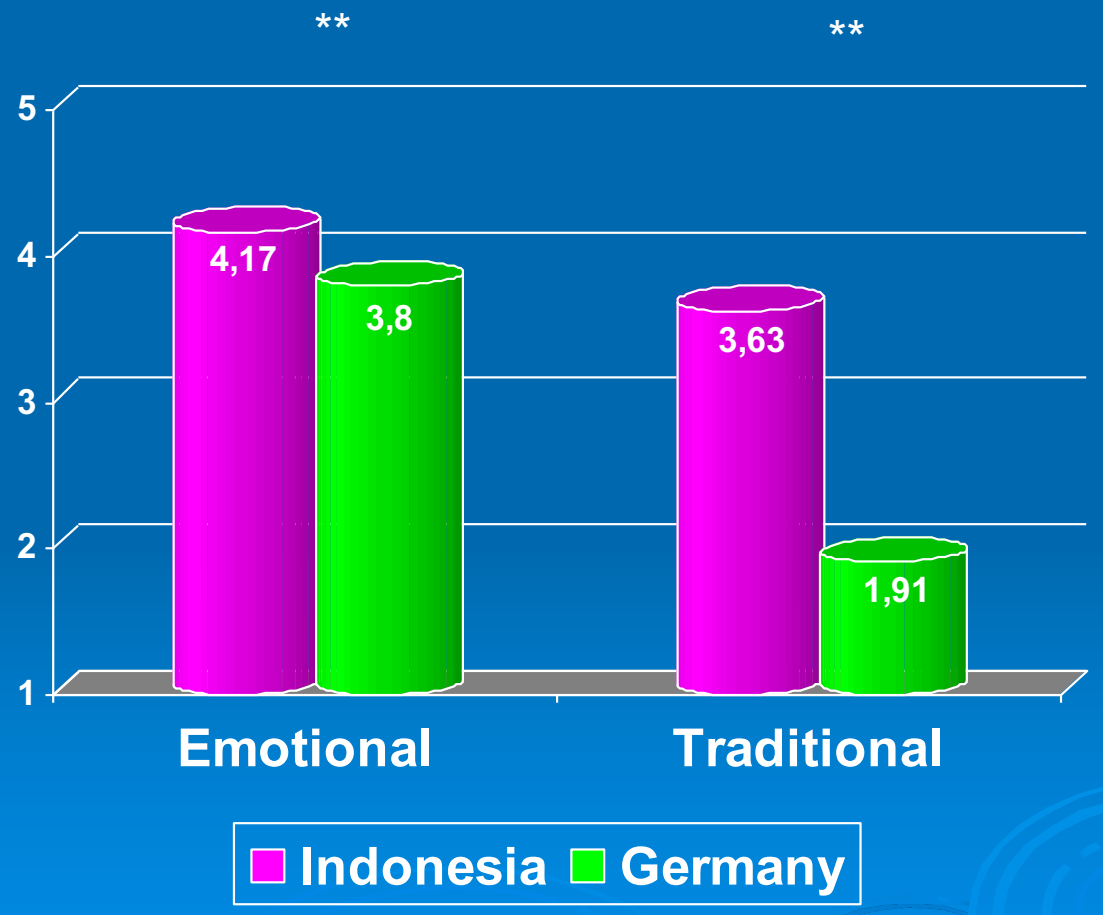
Value of Children



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Family Future Orientation (1)

Future Relationship (%) & Family Importance

	Indonesia	Germany
Get married	93	69
Live together/not marry	0	15
I don’t Know	7	16
Family most important (1-5)	3.64	3.18

Family Future Orientation (2)

Would you like to have children? (%) & How many?

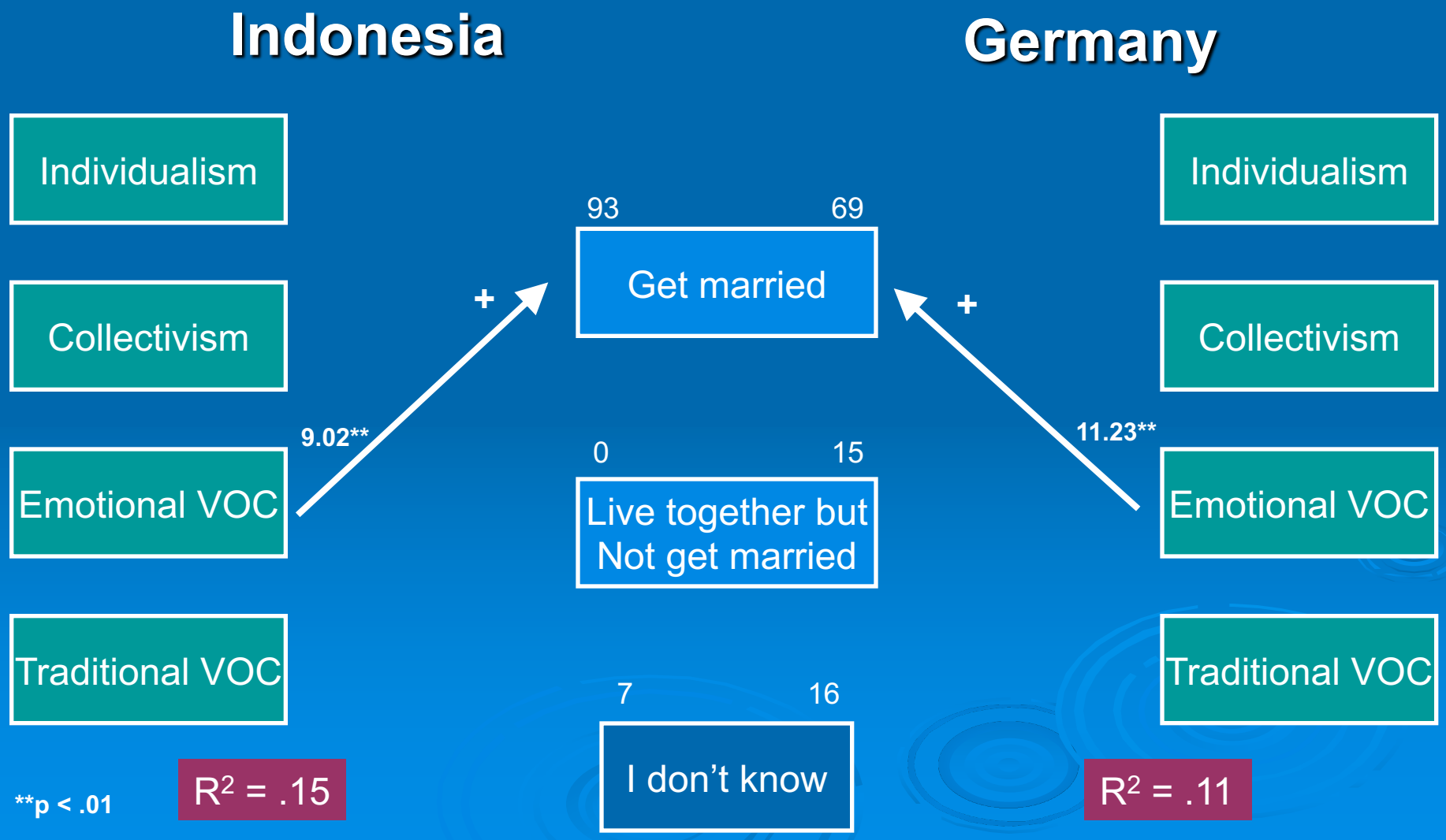
	Indonesia	Germany
Yes/probably	95	72
No/probably not	0	10
I don’t Know	4	18
If yes, how many?	2.2	2.0

Family Future Orientation (3)

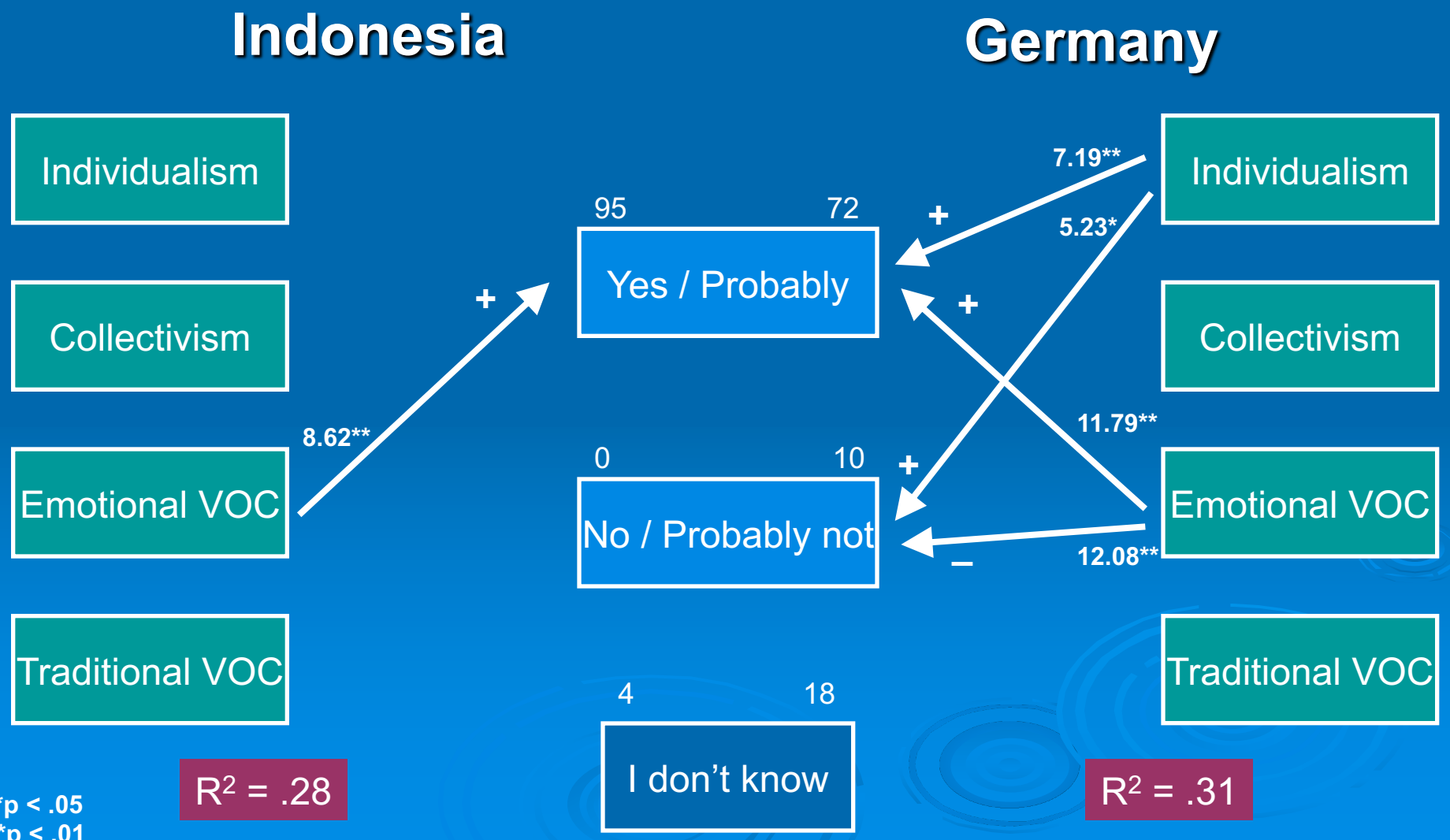
Gender preference if only one child? (%)

	Indonesia		Germany	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
Son	19	13	34	12
Daughter	3	12	5	18
Does not matter	78	75	61	70

Marriage Plans



Would you like to have children?



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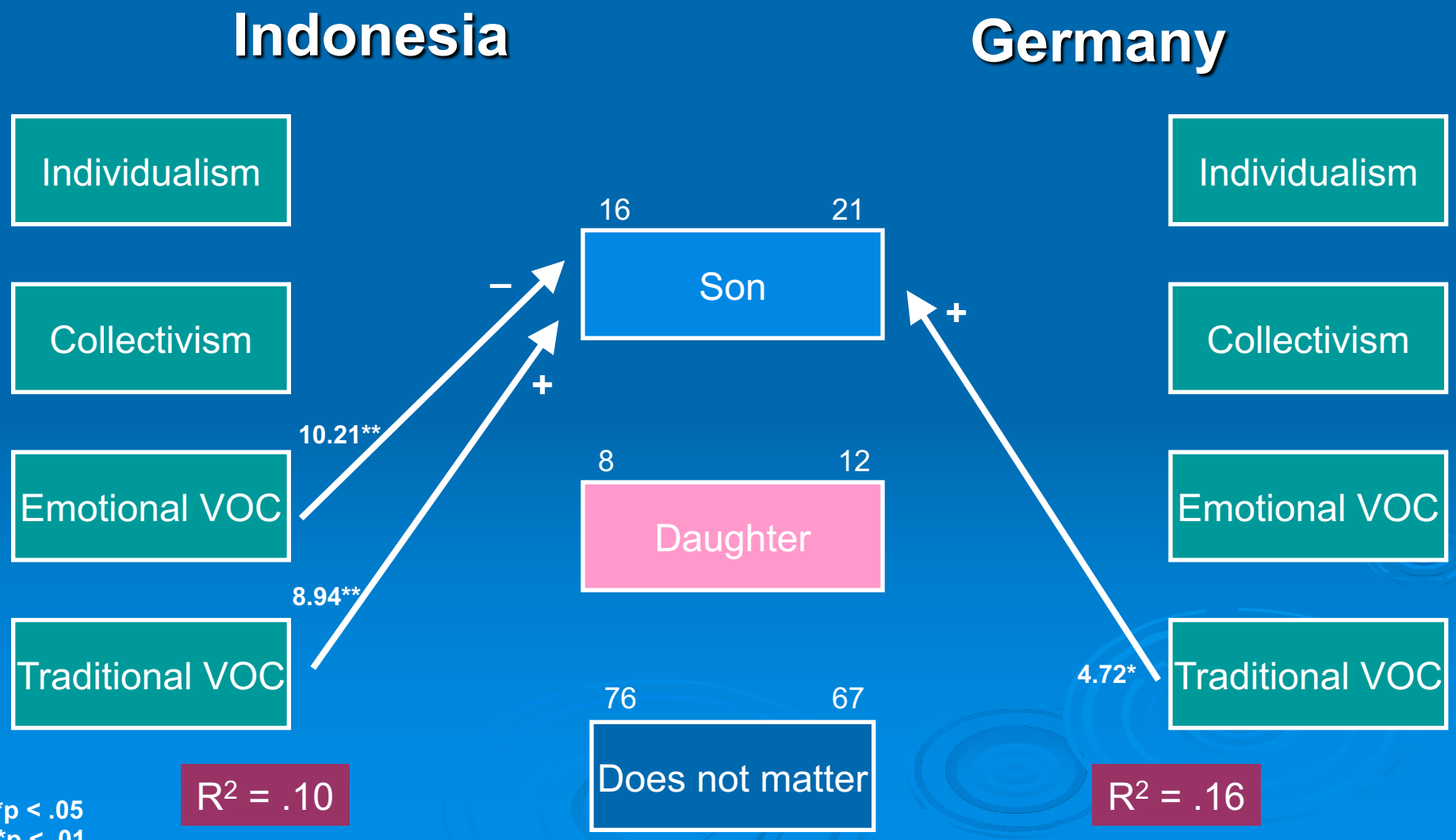
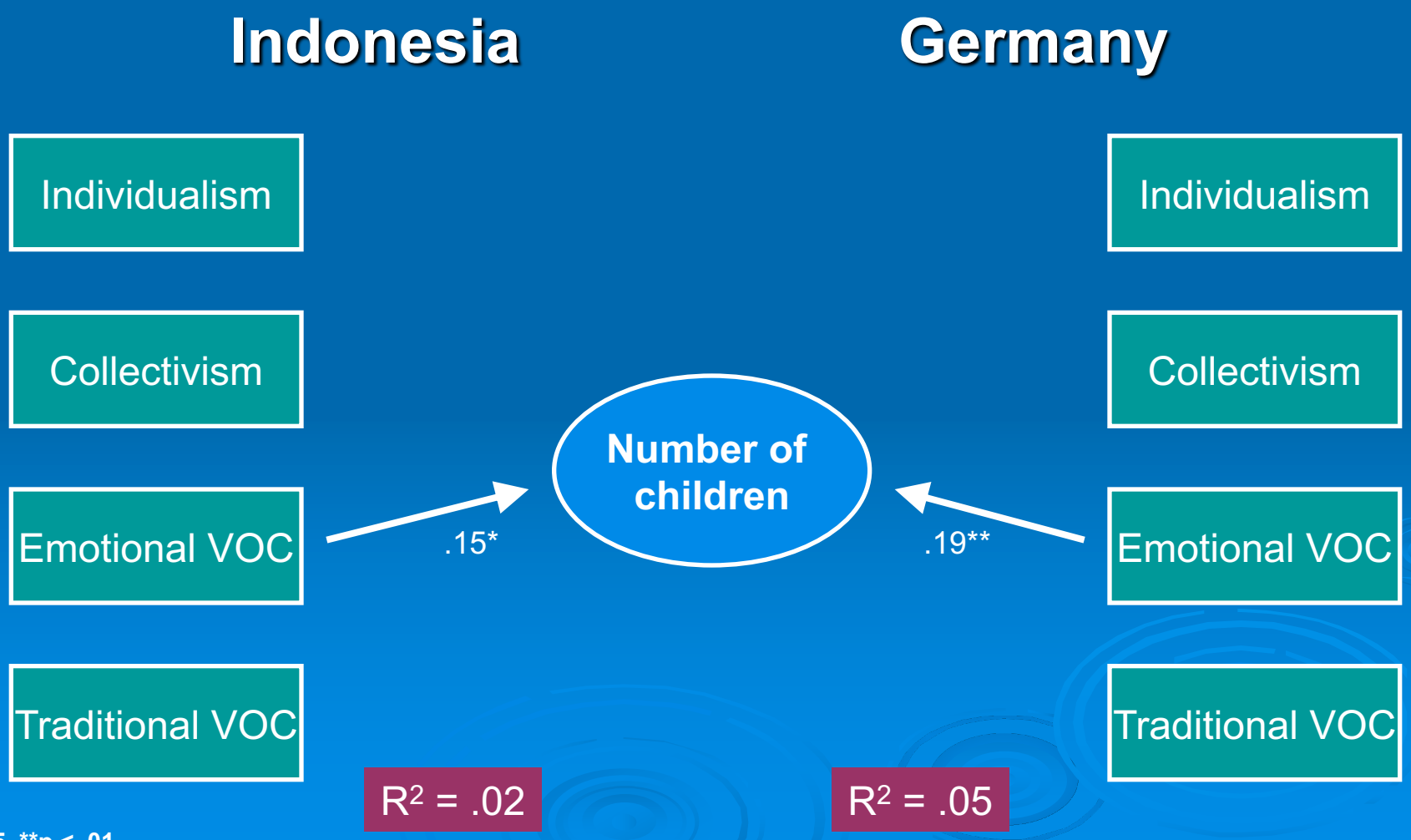
**p < .01

Gender preference if only one child?

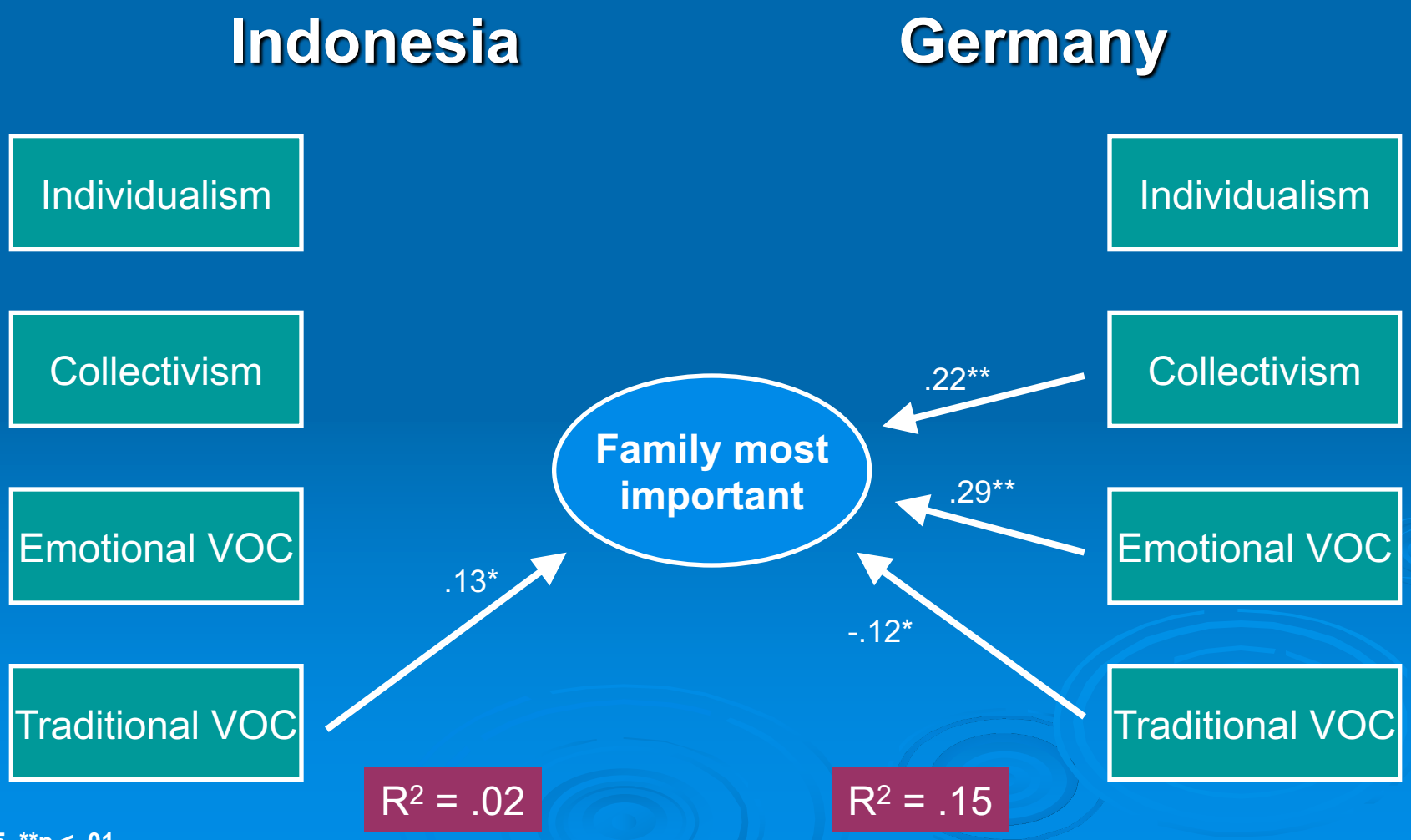


How many children do you want?



*p < .05 **p < .01

Future plans: Family most important



*p < .05 **p < .01

Discussion

- Indonesian adolescents' family models can be characterized as emotionally interdependent
- German adolescents' family models can be characterized as more independent than Indonesian adolescents'

- Emotional VOC rather than Traditional VOC is related to family building variables in both countries
- Traditional VOC is only related to son preference in both countries

Conclusions

- Kagitcibasi's theory of family models was validated with respect to values and family future orientation of Indonesian and German adolescents
- Though results on the **cultural** level suggest that Emotional VOC is related to lower fertility, on the **individual** level the relationship may be different: Wanting children for emotional reasons increases the likelihood to want (more) children
- Individualism/Collectivism has rather little relevance for adolescents future orientation regarding the family