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BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

Increasing numbers of nontraditional students
(>25 years; working; with children)

"It is an old dream"
"So my first love was Psychology"

"I felt overwhelmed,
even scared"



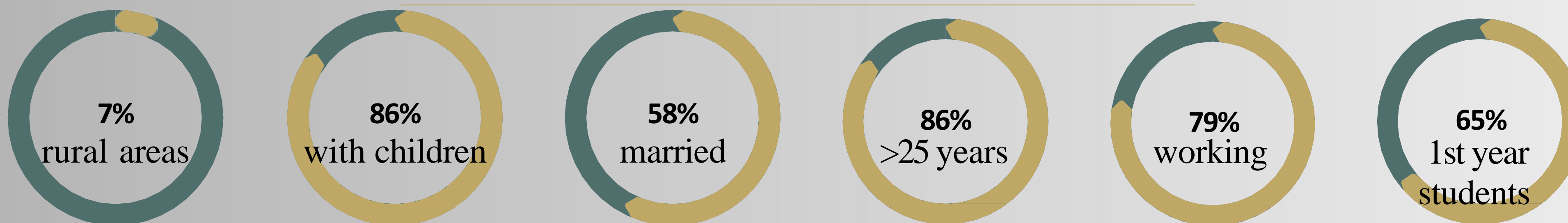
RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- What motivated them to study psychology?
- What changes appeared in their lives after admission?
- What were the difficulties they faced?
- What solutions do they propose?
- To what extent does dropout intention occur?

METHOD

- Questionnaire to identify the target group
- 2 semi-structured group interviews based on an interview guide
 - duration of 1.5-2 hours each
 - 14 participants - 1st and 2nd year students
- Interview analysis - QSR Nvivo

PARTICIPANTS



RESULTS

Motivation

"I remain forever young, I have younger colleagues who are full of life!"

"I felt that this was closer to what I wanted to do"

Difficulties

"I'm thinking with horror that we're going to start going face to face"

"Besides being a mother and a wife, it's quite hard to juggle them all"

"I am always on the run"

Dropout risk

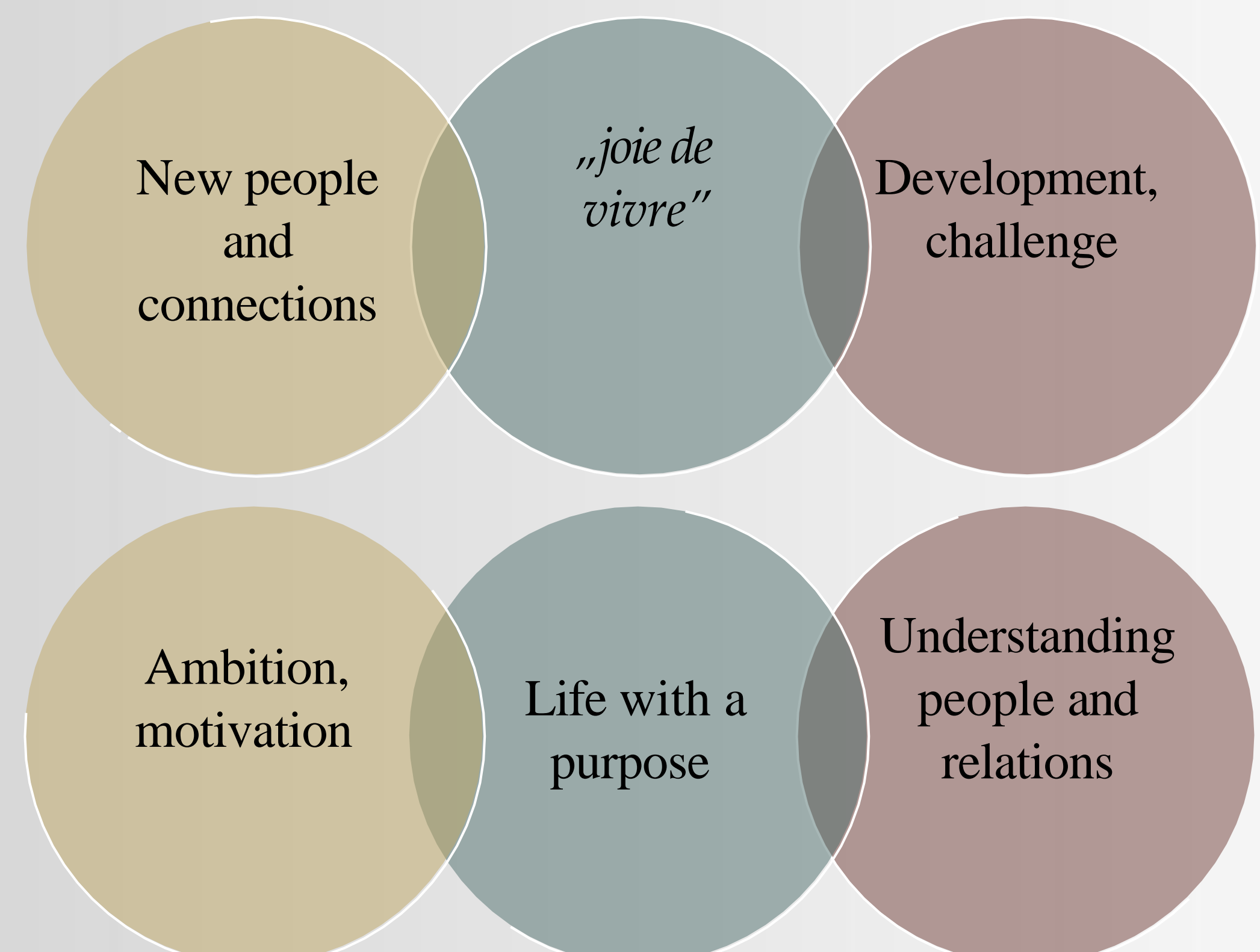
"I've asked myself about ten thousand times a day whether to continue or not"

"I'm now in a moment when I have no ideas, I don't see a way out, I don't see a solution"

Solutions

- Online/hybrid
- Flexibility
- Fewer attendences
- Classes in the afternoon/week-end
- Reduced frequency classes
- Mentoring
- Support groups
- Romanian literature

The positives



Seed project idea for continuing the research!!

"Even though it was chaos before anyway, now it's even more chaos, but I seem to be much calmer in all this chaos than before [...]"

and it starts to make some sense"

"I really, really wish I could just focus on college and attend every class and every seminar and lab and so on, but unfortunately it's not possible"