

Extending Longevity by Developing Human Survivability

Evgenii Brindin

Interdisciplinary researcher of the International Academy of Education, Technological Platform Medicine of The Future, Russia, Novosibirsk. E-mail: bryndin15@yandex.ru

***Corresponding Author:** Evgeniy Bryndin - Interdisciplinary researcher of the International Academy of Education, Technological Platform Medicine of The Future, Russia, Novosibirsk.

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Abstract

Human survivability depends on the ability to remain alive in changing states, conditions, and events. The development of human survivability is a complex of processes and factors aimed at ensuring sustainable existence and development in the environment. Firstly, it includes biological aspects: adaptation to various environmental conditions, development of the immune system to fight diseases, evolutionary mechanisms that enable survival in changing conditions. Secondly, social and cultural factors: education and knowledge transfer, the development of technologies and health protection tools, the formation of social institutions and support systems. Thirdly, individual skills and behavior: the skills of finding food, protection, and reproduction, the formation of safe behavior habits, the ability to independently regulate and cope with stress. Fourthly, ecological and technological solutions: the creation of living conditions that meet human needs, the use of technology to improve the quality of life and protect the environment. The overall goal of developing survivability is to ensure not only the physiological existence of a person but also their ability to develop, maintain health, and adapt to new conditions, which ultimately contributes to the duration and quality of life.

Key words: human survivability; longevity and resilience; survival skills development; psychological resilience; preventive medicine and longevity; healthy lifestyle and aging; adaptive human survival; orthodox approach to survivability

Introduction

Developing human survivability is a complex process that includes physical, psychological, and intellectual preparation for action in various conditions.

1. Physical readiness:

- General endurance and strength;
- Skills for independent survival (making a fire, building a shelter, obtaining water and food);
- Ability to navigate the terrain;
- Knowledge of basic first aid.

2. Psychological resilience:

- Will to live and motivation;
- Ability to maintain self-control in stressful situations;
- Resistance to panic and fear;
- Adaptability and flexibility of thought.

3. Intellectual preparation:

- Knowledge of survival factors (cold, hunger, thirst, fatigue);
- Understanding of the body's adaptation mechanisms;
- Mastery of decision-making techniques under uncertainty;

- Knowledge of local environmental features (climate, flora, fauna).

Factors Affecting Survival:

- External Conditions (weather, terrain, resource availability).
- Physiological Reserves (energy reserves, health).
- Psycho-Emotional State (anxiety level, motivation).
- Accumulated Experience (previous training, knowledge).
- Social Factor (presence of a group, role distribution).

Stages of Survival Development:

1. Theoretical training:

- learning the basics of survival;
- analyzing typical emergency scenarios;
- acquiring knowledge of medicine, ecology, and navigation.

2. Practical training:

- practicing skills in controlled conditions;
- simulating extreme situations;
- participating in hikes and expeditions.

3. Psychological preparation:

- stress resistance training;
- simulating critical situations;
- developing willpower.

4. Systematic reinforcement:

- regular training;
- analyzing errors and adjusting skills;
- maintaining physical fitness;
- an integrated approach and balance.

Longevity through survivability links human lifespan to the ability to effectively adapt, maintain health, and overcome life's challenges. Key aspects include:

1. Health and prevention: maintaining good health, promptly treating illnesses, and preventing disease contribute to increased lifespan.
2. Adaptability and resilience: a person's ability to adapt to environmental changes, stress, and new conditions increases the chances of a long life.
3. Lifestyle: a balanced diet, physical activity, avoiding bad habits, and a positive mindset contribute to a strong body and increased survivability.
4. Psychological resilience: the ability to cope with emotional and psychological stress helps maintain mental health and longevity.
5. Social support: strong social connections and active participation in society improve quality of life and contribute to its longevity.

Ensuring longevity through survivability is a complex task that integrates biology, medicine, social policy, and individual lifestyle. Below are the key areas and practical approaches.

Scientific and medical strategies.

1. Preventive medicine:

- early diagnosis and monitoring of chronic diseases;
- personalized prevention programs based on genetic analysis and biomarkers;
- vaccination and infection risk control.

2. Transplantology and regenerative medicine:

- development of xenotransplantation (organ transplantation from genetically modified animals); * in vitro organ and tissue growth (including 3D bioprinting);
- stem cell therapy for tissue repair.

3. Molecular and cellular technologies:

- correction of lysosome (cellular "cleaning") function to slow aging;
- gene therapy (activation of "longevity genes," such as FOXO3 and Klotho);
- removal of senescent ("aging") cells;
- Use of small molecules to modulate age-related processes (e.g., a combination of RepSox and tranilcypromine).
- 4. Biological age monitoring:
- Epigenetic clock (DNA methylation analysis);
- Biomarker panels (e.g., LinAge2: hemoglobin, C-reactive protein, ferritin, etc.).

Lifestyle and behavioral factors.

1. Nutrition:

- a balanced, calorie-controlled diet;
- limiting sugar and ultra-processed foods;
- including antioxidants, omega-3 fatty acids, and fiber.

2. Physical activity:

- at least 5-10 hours per week (walking, swimming, strength training);
- maintaining muscle mass to prevent sarcopenia.

3. Mental health:

- stress management (meditation, cognitive behavioral techniques);
- adequate sleep (7-9 hours, maintaining circadian rhythms);
- social activity and cognitive stimulation.

4. Avoiding bad habits:

- avoiding smoking and excessive alcohol consumption;
- controlling screen time and digital load.

Social and Infrastructure Solutions

1. Environmental Adaptation:

- Healthy housing with controlled microclimate and ecology;
- Urban infrastructure for an active lifestyle (parks, bike paths).

2. Economic and Labor Measures:

- Flexible employment formats for the elderly;
- Retraining and social inclusion programs;
- Access to high-quality healthcare.

3. Education and Awareness-Raising

- Popularizing knowledge about the factors that contribute to longevity;
- Teaching self-health monitoring skills.
- Integrating scientific advances into popular practice, changing cultural attitudes toward aging.

Thus, enhancing human survival through the development of his physical, psychological and social resources is a key factor in achieving longevity [1-9].

Life support for human survival

Human survival involves a combination of conditions and factors that ensure vital functions and maintain health. The main components of life support include:

1. Water: essential for drinking, hygiene, physiological processes, and metabolism. The average adult consumes approximately 2-3 liters of water per day.
2. Nutrition: a balanced diet that provides the body with essential macronutrients, proteins, fats, carbohydrates, vitamins, and minerals.
3. Air: availability of fresh, clean air with sufficient oxygen for breathing.
4. Temperature: maintaining a comfortable body temperature to prevent hypothermia or overheating.
5. Protection from environmental hazards: shelter from adverse weather conditions, protection from harmful substances, radiation, and infections.
6. Sleep and rest: important for recuperation, maintaining immunity, and mental health.
7. Hygiene: maintaining cleanliness of the body and the environment to prevent disease.

Ensuring these conditions is the basis for human survival, both in everyday life and in extreme situations.

Basic needs:

1. Water:

- Minimum requirement: 1.5–2 liters per day (more in hot weather/during intense activity);
- Sources: streams, rivers, melted snow, rain, condensation;
- Disinfection: boiling (5–10 min), tablets, filtration, UV treatment;
- Storage: sealed container, protect from contamination.

2. Food:

- Caloric value: 2000–3000 kcal/day (depending on activity);
- Sources: emergency supplies, hunting, fishing, foraging for wild plants (know edible species!); * Rules: do not eat unfamiliar plants/mushrooms, avoid raw meat/fish;
- Preservation: drying, salting, smoking.

3. Shelter/Warmth:

- Functions: protection from wind, precipitation, hypothermia/overheating;
- Types: tent, shelter, snow cave, lean-to;
- Insulation: bedding (branches, spruce branches), sleeping bag, warm clothing;
- Heating: campfire, stove (fire safety precautions required).

4. Medical Safety:

- First Aid Kit: painkillers, antiseptics, bandages, antibiotics, anti-poisoning medications; *Hygiene: hand washing, water treatment, changing linens (infection prevention);
- First Aid: stopping bleeding, immobilizing fractures, treating wounds;
- Prevention: protection from insect, tick, and snake bites; vaccinations (if planning a long hike).
- 5. Psychological Resilience:
 - Will to Live: a positive attitude;
 - Regimen: alternating activity and rest, at least 6 hours of sleep;
 - Stress management: breathing exercises, meditation, thought journaling;
 - Group dynamics: role assignment, mutual support, conflict avoidance.

Human Survival Skills

Human survival skills are a set of skills and knowledge that enable effective adaptation and survival in various conditions.

1. Water extraction and purification:

- finding natural sources (streams, springs);
- collecting rainwater;
- making filters from available materials (coal, sand, gravel);
- disinfection by boiling.

2. Fire making:

- using matches, lighters, and fire starters;
- methods without special equipment (lens, flint and steel, friction);
- choosing a safe place for a fire;
- maintaining a fire in various weather conditions.

3. Shelter construction:

- choosing a location (protection from wind, precipitation, and wild animals);
- building a structure from natural materials (branches, leaves, snow);

- insulation to protect from the cold;
- camouflage if necessary.

4. Foraging in Nature:

- Identifying edible plants and mushrooms;
- Setting traps for small animals;
- Fishing basics (making tackle from improvised means);
- Hunting with primitive tools.

5. First Aid:

- Stopping bleeding (pressure bandages, tourniquets);
- Treating wounds and burns;
- Immobilizing fractures;
- Providing first aid for hypothermia and heatstroke;
- Identifying poisonous plants and animals;
- Using natural antiseptics (plantain, chamomile).

6. Psychological Resilience:

- Controlling fear and panic;
- Rational distribution of energy and resources;
- Maintaining motivation and the will to survive;
- Stress management in extreme conditions;
- Ability to make decisions under uncertainty.

7. Social Skills:

- Effective communication in a group;
- distribution of roles and responsibilities;
- conflict resolution; * mutual aid and support;
- signaling (fires, mirrors, whistles).

Successful survival depends on individual skills, their integrated application, adaptation to specific conditions, and the ability to quickly learn in different situations. The more deeply each aspect is developed, the higher the chances of successful survival in any given situation [10].

The Orthodox approach to the development of human survival

The Orthodox approach to developing human resilience is based on spiritual values, faith, moral principles, and inner harmony. Key aspects of this approach include:

1. Faith and Spiritual Development:

- Faith in God and spiritual unity with the Creator help a person find inner peace, strength, and hope in difficult situations.
- Prayer, participation in church sacraments, and spiritual development strengthen the spiritual resources to overcome life's challenges.

2. Moral Principles and Ethics:

- Following God's commandments, mercy, love, and compassion help develop a positive attitude toward oneself and others, creating spiritual support.
- Honesty, humility, and faith in goodness contribute to the strengthening of the moral qualities necessary to overcome difficulties.

3. The Importance of Community and Spiritual Support:

- The Church and church fellowship serve as a source of spiritual support, mutual assistance, and unity.
- Shared prayers, church events, and spiritual guidance help strengthen inner resilience.
- 4. The Importance of Inner Harmony:
 - Orthodoxy emphasizes the need for inner prayer, humility, and repentance to achieve spiritual balance.

- Harmony between body and spirit promotes resilience in difficult circumstances.

5. Hope and Trust:

- Faith in divine providence and hope for eternal life help overcome fears associated with danger and death.

In the Orthodox worldview, human survival is linked to the spiritual salvation of the soul. Faith in God is seen as the foundation of spiritual life. Archimandrite John (Krestyankin) taught that resistance to impending fear is possible only through faith: "Our only resistance to impending fear is our faith in God, our life by faith." Trust in God is not passive expectation, but an active surrender to God's will, even in the most difficult circumstances. St. Paisios the Athonite said: "It is not enough to believe in God; we must trust Him. We receive God's help through trust in Him."

Prayer is the central tool for communicating with God and strengthening spiritual life. It helps restore the hierarchy between spirit, soul, and body, directing a person toward God. Through prayer, a person learns to trust in the Lord, drawing from Him the strength and courage to endure sorrows. The Holy Fathers emphasize that prayer is not simply a request for material goods, but, above all, an intercession before God, a striving for closeness with Him.

Humility and patience are viewed as virtues that a person can acquire through trials, including illness and sorrow. From an Orthodox perspective, illnesses may not be a punishment, but a means of cleansing from sins, admonishing oneself, or preparing one for the future life. St. Ambrose of Optina wrote: "When our outer man decays, then the inner man is renewed" (2 Cor. 4:16). Enduring illness with thanksgiving is considered superior to other corrections before God.

The Orthodox approach emphasizes the importance of living according to the commandments and striving for holiness. Knowledge of dogmas and commandments, and their fulfillment, is a necessary condition for salvation. The Holy Fathers taught that a person must constantly work on themselves, eradicating sins and developing virtues. Repentance is a key element of this process: it allows one to cleanse the conscience and draw closer to God.

The body is viewed as an instrument of service to God, but its needs should not overshadow care for the soul. Fasting and abstinence help to tame bodily passions and devote more attention to spiritual life. At the same time, the Church does not deny the importance of medical treatment: "The Lord created doctors and medicines [11]. Treatment cannot be rejected," warned St. Nikon.

Participation in church life—worship services, sacraments (repentance, communion, unction)—plays a key role in a person's spiritual survival. Collective prayer in church strengthens spiritual strength, and the sacraments help to receive God's grace.

Even in difficult circumstances, an Orthodox person is called to thank God. This is not only an expression of gratitude but also a way to maintain inner peace and avoid despondency. St. John Chrysostom said: "He who has learned to thank God for his illnesses is close to holiness."

The Orthodox approach to human survival focuses on the spiritual dimension of life. Survival here is understood not only as physical preservation, but also as the salvation of the soul through faith, prayer, humility, moral development, and life in the Church. Difficulties and trials are viewed not as catastrophes, but as opportunities for spiritual growth and drawing closer to God.

Thus, the Orthodox approach to developing human survival emphasizes the importance of spiritual values, faith, and morality as the foundation of inner strength, which helps a person maintain life and dignity in any circumstances [12-13].

Conclusion

Prolonging longevity through developing resilience enhances a person's ability to adapt, maintain health, and overcome life's challenges to increase life expectancy. This process includes:

1. Improving health and disease prevention: Regular medical checkups, timely treatment, and prevention of chronic diseases help maintain productivity and vitality over the long term.
2. Developing physical and psychological skills: Strengthening the body through physical activity, proper nutrition, and stress resilience contributes to increased overall survival.
3. Lifestyle and habits: Avoiding unhealthy habits and developing healthy habits, such as adequate sleep and moderate consumption, improves the quality and duration of life.
4. Education and information literacy: Knowledge of ways to maintain health and adapt to environmental challenges enables a person to better cope.
5. Social activity and support: Strong connections with loved ones and participation in community life promote psychological well-being and strengthen the immune system.
6. Using technology and innovation: The introduction of new medical and biological technological solutions helps slow the aging process and extend the active period of life.

Prolonging longevity through the development of human survival combines biomedical technologies, behavioral strategies, and social measures [14-21].

Biomedical Approaches

1. Genetic Engineering:

- Searching for and studying genes that influence lifespan;
- Genome editing (e.g., CRISPR/Cas9 technology) to correct "aging genes";
- Activating genes that lengthen telomeres.

2. Regenerative Medicine:

- Stem cell therapy for tissue repair;
- Organ growth and transplantation (including using bioreactors);
- Cellular reprogramming for cellular rejuvenation.

3. Nano Medicine:

- Targeted drug delivery by nanorobots;
- Replacement of cellular and neuronal functions with artificial analogues;
- Transferring brain functions to a computer.
- 4. Cryonics:
- Freezing bodies/brains for future recovery;
- Development of cryoprotectants and thawing methods.

Technological and digital methods

1. Artificial intelligence:

- 24/7 health monitoring via wearable devices;
- personalized diagnostics and disease prognosis [21-22];
- brain modeling.

2. Cyborgization:

- replacement of organs and limbs with bionic analogues;
- brain-computer interfaces to enhance cognitive functions.

Behavioral and Preventive Strategies

1. Lifestyle:

- Regular physical activity (reduces the risk of chronic diseases);

- A balanced diet (e.g., calorie restriction, low-glycemic index diets);
- Good-quality sleep (7–9 hours/day);
- Quitting smoking and excessive alcohol consumption.

2. Disease Prevention:

- Vaccination;
- Early detection of cancer, cardiovascular, and neurodegenerative diseases;
- Control of blood pressure, cholesterol, and glucose.

3. Mental and Emotional Health [23]:

- Reducing chronic stress (meditation, cognitive behavioral therapy);
- Maintaining social connections and cognitive activity.

Social and environmental measures

1. Affordable medicine:

- development of preventive and personalized medicine;
- expansion of screening and vaccination programs.

2. Environmental protection:

- reduction of air and water pollution;
- creation of "age-friendly" cities (safe infrastructure, accessible services).

3. Economic incentives:

- support for active aging (retraining, flexible work schedules);
- pension systems that encourage healthy lifestyles.

The goal of developing survivability is not only to increase life expectancy, but also to extend the period of active, healthy existence (healthspan) [24]. To do this, you need to transition to a normal lifestyle according to the New Testament, get rid of bad habits, and discover and develop your individual psychophysiological reserves of survival [25-26].

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