

Comparative Study

A Comparative Study of Socio Economic Status, Gender and Life Satisfaction in Young Adults

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ABSTRACT

The present study investigated the relationship between Socio Economic Status, Gender and Life Satisfaction. A sample of 416 Adults residing in Surat city, 211 females and 205 males was collected using convenience sampling technique. Sample included participants from the age group of 18-24 years. The sample was administered, The Satisfaction with Life Scale developed by (Diener, E., Emmons, R. A., Larsen, R. J., & Griffin, S., 1985), Socio Economic Status and Gender detail was obtained through demographic details. The Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) was used to analyse the data statistically. The statistical tool used to analyse the data was t- test. The results indicated that, There was a statistically significant difference between Low Socio Economic Status Individuals and High Socio Economic Status Individuals on Life Satisfaction and There was no significant difference between males and females on Life Satisfaction.

Keywords: *Socio Economic Status, Gender, Life Satisfaction, Young Adults*

Estimated Family background of students which includes income, community of parents, occupation, and schooling is defined as Socio Economic Status (Meraz,1983). Socio Economic Status is also referred as SES, it can be classified on the basis of relation between an individual's relative wealth and Personal Social Status. An individual's position or social standing can also be referred to as Socio Economic Status. Key indicators of community issues and tools to measure Socio Economic Status of an individual or Group are Occupation, Education and Income (Kamble, 2015). Family income and assets has an effect on Socio cultural issues, it affects household problems, crime motivation, and overall performance. Socio Economic Status plays a crucial role in Academic Performance and Educational Qualification. Individuals with Lower Socio-Economic Status tend to have a poor educational qualification as compared to individuals with Higher Socio-Economic Status.

Gender according to the World Health Organisation (2007), refers to the socially constructed and accepted characteristics of men and women. The foundational idea of the same encompasses the conduct, norms, and roles that are associated with being. A man or a woman and the way they interact with one another. As an outcome, gender may vary across

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A Comparative Study of Socio Economic Status, Gender and Life Satisfaction in Young Adults

cultures. According to Barker et al. (2007), gender can evolve and change over time. Gender bias creates discrimination and divides across social, economic, and regional lines. Intersectionality refers to discrimination based on multiple factors, including cultural background, socioeconomic standing, age, geographical region, sexual orientation, and gender identification (Hancock, 2019). Gender is synonymous with sex, but they are not the same terms. Sex refers to an individual's physical traits, including their reproductive organs, chromosomes, and hormones. Gender and sex are related to gender identity, but they are not interchangeable. Gender identity refers to an individual's innate experience of gender, which may differ from their biological features or sex determined at birth (Heinämaa, 2012).

Life Satisfaction, in accordance with research by Ruut Veenhoven (2012), Satisfaction is a Latin word which implies to make or to do enough. Life Satisfaction means contentment with how one lives, willingness to accept the demands of life situation, fulfillment of one's desires and requirements, and life as entirety. Ellison and Colleagues (1989) defined Life Satisfaction as:

“A cognitive evaluation of a deeper state considered to be relatively reliable and impacted by social factors”. Life Satisfaction is also defined as a “Person's cognitive and judgmental process which includes his or her evaluations and feelings about life and future” (Diener et al., 1985). The definitions of Life Satisfaction all have the same fundamental meaning. Life Satisfaction is an assessment of one's life as a whole rather than of any one particular area or period of time. Given that Life Satisfaction is innately evolutionary, evaluating it involves a significant amount of cognitive processes. Life Satisfaction is one measure of apparent quality of life. Contentment, a mental attitude. It's a measure of how happy someone is with the life they have led. Life Satisfaction is also referred to as enjoyment and contentment. Life satisfaction is regarded as crucial for human welfare. Humans consider satisfaction to be the ultimate goal and work towards it throughout their lives (Elisabeth Adele Gusevik Opshaug, 2013).

Overall Psychological development in Young Adults depends on how they view themselves, Interpersonal relations and their Economic Status which may differ by Gender (Fatma, Doç & İkiç, Ebru & Doç, Yrd & Bülent, Baki & Telef, Bülent Baki.,2013). The present study aims at exploring the variables Socio Economic Status, Gender and Life Satisfaction. Moreover, the effects of Socio-Economic Status and Gender were investigated to understand Life Satisfaction and its predictor.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

A research by Nadhirah. Kamalulil. Aisyah. and Panatik (2021), on the influence of Socio Economic Status on Job and Life Satisfaction among Low income employees in Johor Local Authorities showed results that Socio Economic Status had a positive effect on Life Satisfaction and Job Satisfaction.

A research by Daraej and Mohajery (2013), aimed at understanding the impact of Socio Economic Status, income, occupation, education on Life Satisfaction of female domestic workers over a period of 4 years in Mysore City, South India. Results through quantitative findings revealed that Socio Economic Status and Life Satisfaction are positively correlated.

A research titled “The relationship between gender and life satisfaction: analysis across demographic groups and global regions” was conducted to study the gender differences in life satisfaction globally and across demographic groups. As part of this study a sample of 1,801,417 participants across 166 countries was collected using World Poll. The statistical

A Comparative Study of Socio Economic Status, Gender and Life Satisfaction in Young Adults

analysis of the data collected showed that the Gender differences in life satisfaction were found to be significant yet small. Women reported higher levels of life satisfaction than men across all income, education, and employment groups. Men scored higher than women only over the age of about 63, and in sub-Saharan Africa. Women were found to be more satisfied with their lives than men across most of the groups (Joshnloo & Jovanovic, 2020).

Another research titled “Gender differences in Life Satisfaction among Children and Adolescents: A Meta-analysis” was conducted in which Gender differences in life satisfaction (LS) were studied. In this study, 46 empirical studies from 1980 to 2017 (with a cumulated total N = 11,772) were meta-analyzed to examine potential gender differences in Life Satisfaction among children and adolescents. The findings revealed that Life Satisfaction remains invariant across gender groups, but with a slight difference in favor of male children and adolescents (Chen, X., Cai, Z., He, J. et al., 2020).

METHODOLOGY

Sample

The researcher included a sample of 416 Young Adults residing in Surat district between the age range of 18-24 years. Convenience sampling technique was used to collect the data. The statistical tool used to analyse the data was t - independent.

Inclusion Criteria

- Only male and female
- Individuals residing in Surat District were selected
- Individuals with Fluency in English Language were selected
- Individuals between the age range of 18 - 24 years selected

Exclusion Criteria

- Another gender, apart from male and female were excluded
- Individuals residing outside Surat District were excluded
- Individuals with no Fluency in English language were excluded
- Individuals below 18 years of age or above 24 years were excluded

Hypotheses

- There will be a statistically significant difference between Low Socio Economic Status Individuals and High Socio Economic Status Individuals on Life Satisfaction
- There will be a significant difference between males and females on Life Satisfaction

Procedure

In order to collect the data, a Google form was created and shared with 416 adults in the month of May, 2023. The form consisted of 5 parts: The first section was regarding the details of the researcher, research and confidentiality. The second section was demographic details. The third section was regarding Life Satisfaction and the fourth section was debriefing. Email address of the researcher was provided in case the participants had questions regarding the study. Demographic details such as name, age, gender, education qualification and email address were collected. It was made sure that the participants' information was kept confidential. The aim of the study and information about the psychological scales used were provided under the column of debriefing at the end of the questionnaire. It was made sure that all the ethics like debriefing, withdrawal from the study

A Comparative Study of Socio Economic Status, Gender and Life Satisfaction in Young Adults

etc. were followed. After the data was collected, Independent t-test was used to analyse the data.

Ethics

1. **Confidentiality-** All the participants were assured about the confidentiality of demographics and results obtained. This study was done for research purposes only.
2. **Debriefing-** All the participants were given details about the questionnaire filled and the purpose of the study.
3. **Informed consent-** All the participants were informed about the nature of study. Consent was taken from all participants regarding their voluntary participation.

Tools used

The Satisfaction with Life Scale

Diener, E., Emmons, R. A., Larsen, R. J., & Griffin, S. (1985) developed the Satisfaction with Life Scale. A 5-item scale designed to measure global cognitive judgments of one's life satisfaction. Consisting of 5 questions on a seven point Likert scale ranging from Strongly disagree (1) to Strongly Agree (7).

RESULTS AND INTERPRETATION

In order to analyze the data, descriptive and inferential statistics were used.

Table 1.1: Descriptive Analysis for Socio Economic Status, Gender and Life Satisfaction

Descriptive Statistics					
	N	Minimum Statistics	Maximum Statistics	Mean Statistics	Std. Deviation
Socio Economic Status	416	0	1	.66	.474
Gender	416	0	2	1.50	.505
Life Satisfaction	416	5	35	22.46	7.132

The descriptive data was analyzed using the Statistical package for Social Sciences (SPSS – 23). The descriptive statistics for variables Socio Economic Status, Gender and Life Satisfaction are mentioned in table 1.1. The mean score for Socio Economic Status calculated was .66, mean score for Gender calculated was 1.50 and Life Satisfaction was 22.46. The standard deviation calculated for Socio Economic Status was .474, Gender .505 and Life Satisfaction was 7.132.

Table 1.2 Showing Independent t – Test for Socio Economic Status and Life Satisfaction

		Levene's Test for Equality of Variances		t-test for Equality of Means				
		F	Sig.	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	Std. Error Difference
Life Satisfaction	Equal variances not assumed	4.192157	.041	-2.589	245.103944	.010	-1.999306	.772

In the above table the sample showed a significance value of .041 for the Levene's test, value of .041 is > p value 0.05. Thus, the equal variances were not assumed. And for the t-test the level of significance achieved was -1.999 which is significant, and the t-value was

A Comparative Study of Socio Economic Status, Gender and Life Satisfaction in Young Adults

found to be -2.589. Hypothesis, “There will be a statistically significant difference between Low Socio Economic Status Individuals and High Socio Economic Status Individuals on Life Satisfaction” was created based on review of literature. The results obtained in table 1.2 indicated that there is a significant difference between Low Socio Economic Status Individuals and High Socio Economic Status Individuals on Life Satisfaction. A study by Susran Erkan Eroğlu. Hasan Bozgeyi kli. Vahi t Çalışır. (2009), on 275 Young Turkish people investigated the relationship between the Life Satisfaction and Socio Economic Status. The research findings indicated that there was a significant difference between the Life Satisfaction and Socio Economic Status of the respondent students. A study by Ren, Z.; Yue, G.; Xiao, W.; Fan, Q. (2022), indicated that Social Capital of an individual influences Life Satisfaction.

Table 1.3 Showing Independent t – Test for Gender and Life Satisfaction

		Levene's Test for Equality of Variances		t-test for Equality of Means				
		F	Sig.	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	Std. Error Difference
Life Satisfaction	Equal variances not assumed	10.350	.001	-.837	395.272	.403	-.588	.702

In the above table the sample showed a significance value of .001 for the Levene's test, value of .001 is < p value 0.05. And for the t-test the level of significance achieved was -.588 which is insignificant, and the t-value was found to be -.837. Thus, rejecting the hypothesis “There will be a significant difference between males and females on Life Satisfaction.” A study by Susran Erkan Eroğlu. Hasan Bozgeyi kli. Vahi t Çalışır. (2009), on 275 Young Turkish people investigated the relationship between Life Satisfaction and Gender. Results indicated that there was no significant difference according to the gender variable. A research conducted on 103,217 respondents from 81 nations in the World Values Survey and the European Values Study, 2006 to 2014 indicated that there is no direct impact of Gender on Life Satisfaction.

Limitation

- Since age, geographical location, and Fluency in English language, were controlled. Generalisation of the sample was limited.
- Questionnaire used for data collection, Satisfaction with Life Scale had 5 questions. Short length of the questionnaire might have impacted the results of the study.

CONCLUSION

The data analysis of the present study and review of literature concluded that there was a statistically significant difference between Low Socio Economic Status Individuals and High Socio Economic Status Individuals on Life Satisfaction and there was no significant difference between males and females on Life Satisfaction.

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A Comparative Study of Socio Economic Status, Gender and Life Satisfaction in Young Adults

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Conflict of Interest

The author(s) declared no conflict of interest.

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