

How Does the Perspective on Domain Satisfaction Change Over Time?

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Abstract:

Life satisfaction refers to a process in which individuals assess their feelings about their own lives at a particular point in time. The domains-of-life literature argues that overall life satisfaction depends on satisfaction in different domains of life. Thus, not only satisfaction in life in general but also satisfaction in different domains of life has also been studied by researchers. Based on a large volume of research, various individual level and country level variables have been linked to life satisfaction. This study (i) examines the effect of socio-demographic determinants such as age, gender, marital status, employment status, income, education, having children on satisfaction in the standard of living, health, job and safety variables and (ii) compares the results between two years. For the purpose, individual level data from the Pew Research Center's Global Attitudes Survey for the year 2014 and 2018 is used. Regressions reveal mixed results. It is shown that age is not a significant determinant of the satisfaction with job and safety while it has significant effects on satisfaction in the standard of living and health. Employed people are 3% to 3.5% points more likely than not employed ones to be highly satisfied with their standard of living and health while employment has no impact on the satisfaction with safety. The less number of children is associated with a higher likelihood of high level of satisfaction with all areas of life and the impact of having children gets smaller with the increase in the number of children.

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