

Subjective Well-Being in the Late Life Period: A Cross-National Analysis

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The 2nd LCSR Conference.

Social context

- During the last century, the population structure and vital statistics changed markedly, especially in the developed countries.
- Alongside the increased health and longevity of the older generation, there has been an increase in early retirement.
- Furthermore, the increase in the availability of occupational and private-pension provision to supplement the basic state pension means that a section of those retiring have an income that is more than subsistence level.
- The current post-work population can no longer be characterized by ill health or poverty.

Why Subjective well-being?

The subjective well-being is an important evidence of the extent to which societies meet the needs of their members.

In other words, the research of SWB among older adults can provide an important strategy for understanding the effects of macro-level structures and processes on the quality of late life.

The Main Aim of the Project

- To find the identified predictors of SWB for late life period.
 - Individual level
 - Country level
 - Multilevel

Data and Method

5th wave of WVS, 54 countries, more than 75 000 respondents.

Regression analysis and multilevel modeling.

Theoretical Orientations

- Individual level:

- Discrepancy Theory.

- Social Comparison Theory

- Social Stratification of SWB Theory

- Aggregate level:

- Theory of Social Indicators.

Hypotheses

SWB of older people is not reducible to any single factor and nor is there a simple division between the affluent and the poor. Instead many social factors contribute to the level of SWB, and the inter-relationships are complex. One of the most strong predictors of the level of SWB of older people is social capital.

In addition to the individual and lifecourse characteristics, for older people the country in which they live, the level of democracy, the level of inequality, freedom and tolerance in the country are very important for their level of SWB

Dependent Variable

- SWB of people older 60 years.
 - 40 points variable from 0 to 1
- SWB=life satisfaction (10 points from 0 to 1)*happiness (4 points from 0 to 1).

Independent Variables

- Gender (1=female).
- Marrital status (4 dummy variables)
 - Married — Reference category
 - Widdow
 - Devorced
 - Never Married

Education (4 dummy variables)

- Low than high school — Reference category
- High school
- Bentween high school and university
- University degree

Health (4 points from 0 to 1)

Satisfaction of finantional situation (10 points variable from 0 to 1)

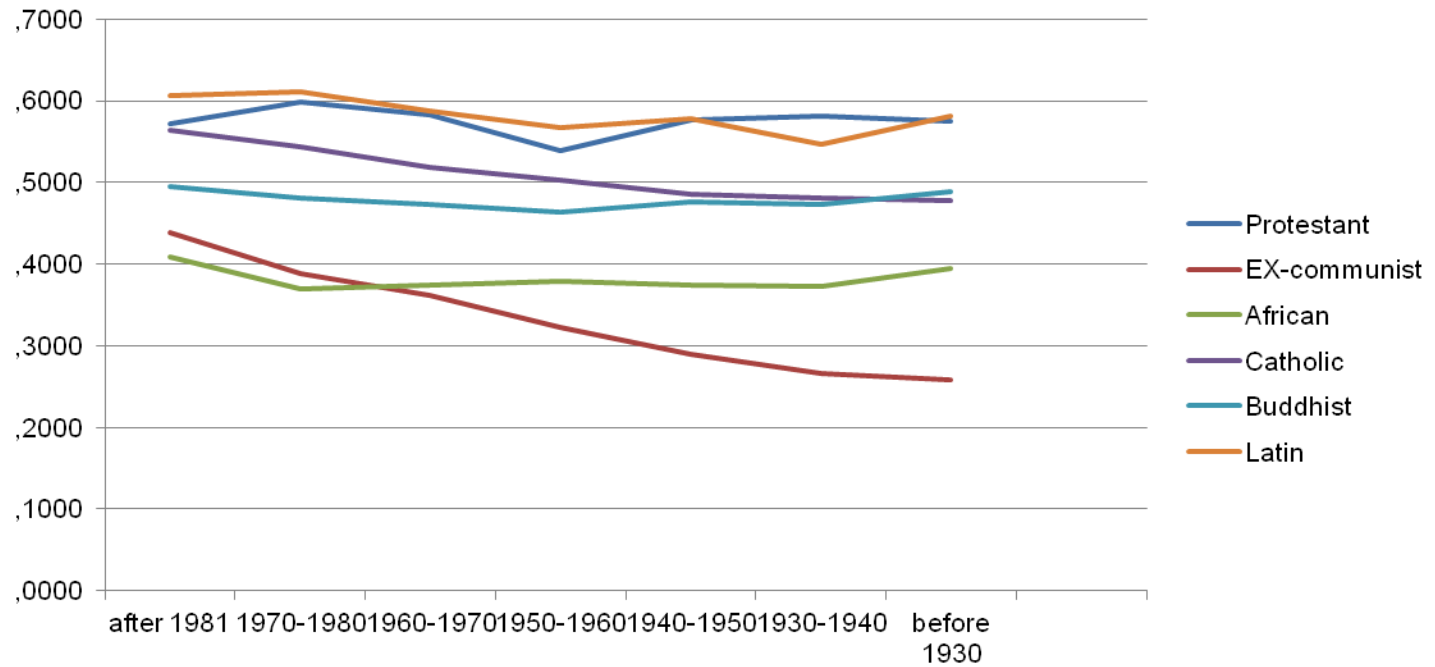
Income

Independent Variables

- Social capital

- Importance of family (10 points variables)
- Importance of friends (10 points variables)
- Importance of leisure time (10 points variables)
- Importance of God (10 points variables)
- Attendance of services (4 points variables)
- Trust - the belief that others around you can be trusted
- Sense of freedom - the belief that person can control his life

Puzzle



Independent Variables

- Geopolitical boundaries (6 dummy variables)
 - Protestant countries
 - Ex-communist countries — Reference category
 - African and South Asian countries
 - Catholic countries
 - Confucian countries
 - Latin America countries

Regression model

	Base	+ Achievements	+ Social Capital	+ Regions
Female	0.007	0.014**	0.013**	0.013**
Widow	-0.079**	-0.033**	-0.032**	-0.029**
Divorced	-0.029**	-0.16**	-0.17**	-0.028**
Never married	-0.031**	-0.18	-0.27**	-0.045**
High School	0.034**	-0.001	-0.008	-0.00
Between high school and university	0.088**	-0.008	-0.001	-0.01
University degree	0.074**	-0.009	-0.015	-0.013
Health		0.365**	0.316**	0.291**
Income		0.22**	0.019**	0.037**
Financial satisfaction		0.437**	0.375**	0.0336**
Importance of family			0.105**	0.108**
Importance of friends			0.06**	0.056**
Importance leisure			0.082**	0.071**
Importance of God			0.038**	0.044**
Attendance of services			-0.001	-0.009
Trust generally			0.008	0.004
Sense of freedom			0.177**	0.171**
Protestant countries				0.097**
Poor African and South Asia countries				0.036**
Catholic countries				0.064**
Confucian countries				0.05**
Latin America countries				0.120**
R2	0.024	0.389	0.427	0.45

Regression model (Regions)

	Protestant countries	EX-communist countries	African and South Asia Countries	Catholic countries	Confucian Countries	Latin America countries
Female	0.001	0.023**	0.027**	-0.007	0.014	0.007
Widow	-0.05**	-0.025**	-0.006	-0.043**	-0.016	-0.029
Divorced	-0.047**	-0.065**	0.035	-0.076**	0.03	-0.005
Never married	-0.057	-0.0151***	0.019	-0.116**	0.044	-0.027
Health	0.328**	0.245**	0.313**	0.340**	0.2**	0.224**
Income	-0.008	-0.006	0.087**	0.036	0.074**	0.05
Financial satisfaction	0.276**	0.335**	0.400**	0.226**	0.441**	0.227**
Importance of family	0.121**	0.085**	0.065	0.114**	0.114**	0.25
Importance of friends	0.079**	0.081**	0.025	0.119**	0.004	0.79**
Importance leisure	0.112**	0.045**	0.046	0.03	0.045	0.12**
Importance of God	0.058**	-0.004	0.024	0.09**	0.025	0.114
Attendance of services	0.007	0.046**	0.029	0.013	0.00	0.044
Trust generally	-0.01	0.016	0.07	0.025	0.027**	-0.019
Sense of freedom	0.221**	0.081**	0.181**	0.1817**	0.129**	0.249**
R2	0.331	0.323	0.445	0.34	0.388	0.3

Independent variables for aggregate level of analysis

- GNP per capita
- Index inequality
- Rule of law index

Country level:
Dependent variable – SWB old people

	Model 1	Model 2	Model 3	Model 4
Constant	0.292*	-0.85*	-1.2*	-0.89*
GNP per capita	0.15*	0.328*	0.112*	0.282*
Index inequality		-0.302*	-0.337*	-0.282*
Rule of Law index			0.095*	
Life expectancy				0.02
R2	0.255	0.47	0.49	0.50
N	54	54	54	54

Multilevel Model

- Individual Level:

- Importance of family
- Importance of friends
- Importance of leisure time
- Importance of Religious
- Sense of freedom

- Country level

- GNP per capita
- Index inequality

Multilevel Model

Fixed Effect	γ	Standard Errors	p-value
Intercept	0.3937**	0.023	<0.001
Log_GNP	0.0036**	0.0007	<0.001
Index inequality	-0.176**	0.0232	<0.001
Importance of family	0.055**	0.0053	<0.001
Importance of friends	0.068**	0.0061	<0.001
Importance of leisure	0.053**	0.0072	<0.001
Importance of religious	0.024**	0.009	0.01
Sense of freedom	0.082**	0.013	<0.001
Importance of leisure*GNP	0.0015**	0.0003	<0.001
Sense of freedom*GNP	0.0613**	0.0055	<0.001
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Conclusions

For many people old age is a period for self-realisation, leisure and new experience. To understand what does and does not contribute to SWB in the late life period, it is therefore necessary to look beyond the traditional foci of health and pension adequacy.

During process of modernization, desire as long as possible to be active and happy, to look younger, to be helpful formed of the people.

The society has to understand these needs and provide the opportunities for successful aging.

Thank you for your attention!