



SOCIOECONOMIC FACTOR, AGEISM AND HAPPINESS OF THAI OLDER PERSONS

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Abstract

Life Happiness is an important issue in promoting healthy aging. The objective of this study is examine influent of socioeconomic statuses and investigate the effect of other factors such as ageism on the happiness of Thai older persons. This study uses data from the 2014 Survey of Social Cultural and Mental Health conducted by the National Statistical Office. The sample is collected in the Thai older persons, a total of 8,914 participants. The data were analyzed using regression statistics, it was found that socioeconomic status, marital status, and ageism, can predict the happiness level of Thai older persons by 8.7 percent with statistical significance ($R^2 = .087$, $F(6, 8907) = 142.23$, $p = .000$).

Introduction

Amidst the aging society of the world including Thai society. Encouraging the happiness of older persons to be and do what themselves by the reason to value is one of the elements that will make the healthy aging¹. Understanding the factors affecting happiness levels could be an important mechanism for more effective collaboration on action across multiple sectors.

Objective

1. Examine influent of socioeconomic statuses, such as education, occupation, and happiness.
2. Investigate the effect of factors such as sex, marital status, and ageism on the happiness of Thai older persons.

Data and methods

Source of data and sample size data for this study were taken from reliable data collected by the National Statistical Office through the Social Cultural and Mental Health (happiness) survey 2014. Data collection took place between October 2014 from 27,000 households (75,560 participants; 12,854 older persons) in Thailand. The final sample size was collected in the Thai older persons, a total of 8,914 participants.

Data processing and analysis: data editing and cleaning was carried through STATA 14.0 software for checking the duplication, omission, incompleteness and inconsistencies. data were analyzed

Result

The mean of happiness score was 7.7 (S.D. = 1.28, min 0, max 10), had completed primary education 46.33%, did not work 57.65%, had mild insufficient income 46.44%, were female 58.27%, married 60.43%, and The mean of attitude score was 13.9 (S.D. = 3.02, min 11, max 33). Regression analysis shows that socioeconomic status, sex, marital status, and ageism, can predict the happiness level of Thai older persons by 8.7 percent with statistical significance ($R^2 = .087$, $F(6, 8907) = 142.23$, $p = .000$). By income can predict the happiness level the highest ($\beta = .446$, $p = .000$), marital status ($\beta = -.100$, $p = .000$), education ($\beta = .068$, $p = .000$) ageism ($\beta = -.027$, $p = .000$), occupational ($\beta = -.013$, $p < .05$), and sex ($\beta = .054$, $p < .05$) (Table.1).

Table 1. Result of regression analysis for predictor variable associated with happiness of older persons

VARIABLES	COEFFICIENT (β)	SE	T	P-VALUE	95% CONFIDENCE INTERVAL	
Socioeconomic status						
- education	.068	.009	7.86	0.000	.051	.085
- occupational	-.013	.005	-2.42	0.016	-.023	-.002
- income	.446	.020	22.71	0.000	.407	.484
Sex	.054	.027	2.00	0.046	.001	.107
Marital status	-.100	.018	-5.53	0.000	-.136	-.065
Ageism	-.027	.004	-6.16	0.000	-.035	-.018
Notes: n = 8,914 R2 = .087, F (6, 8907) = 142.23, p = .000						

The equation as a standard score as follows:

$$(Y) \text{ Happiness} = (-1.000) * [\text{marital status}] + 0.068 * [\text{education}] + (-0.027) * [\text{ageism}] + (-0.013) * [\text{occupational}] + 0.446 * [\text{income}] + 0.054 * [\text{sex}]$$

Discussion and conclusion

As a result, encouraging the older persons to have happiness at the policy level, the agency should raise opportunities for older persons to work with specific expertise in order to earn adequate income³, consider the characteristics of living with a spouse⁴, promoting appropriate learning and work including a campaign against ageism in society⁵.

References

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