CHAPTER 5

DISCUSSION

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5.1 INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, the key points of the research are recalled and synthesized into the coherent body of understanding. In the process of summarizing, references of back sections are given so that it is easy to locate that part of the thesis at which the issues were originally discussed. Here, it was also examined that the conclusions of the study, to what extent will meet the aims or objectives of the study. A clear statement of the original contribution to knowledge made by the research has been mentioned. A practical implication had made in the thesis for various stakeholders of the society, like the Government, Welfare Organizations, People, etc. Implications were made keeping in view the thought that individual or organizations would be in the position to understand its importance and implement it. In the latter part of this chapter, possibilities for further research have been discussed.

5.2 FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

I. A sample of people of Gujarat was classified into three groups on the bases of their overall life satisfaction ratings (Refer Table 4.2): a) highly satisfied group with 20.5%, b) moderately satisfied group with 60.6%, and c) poorly satisfied group with 18.8%. It was found that highly satisfied group scored higher on all variables of a semantic differential scale. It showed that they had expressed positive orientation towards their overall life satisfaction and perceived their lives as Enjoying, Interesting, Active, Happy, Meaningful, Worthwhile, Rewarding, Easy, Relaxed, Full of fun and Comfortable. On another side, the moderately satisfied group was observed to be perceived the same as the highly satisfied group but comparative lesser degree. A poorly satisfied group having comparative lower ratings on overall life satisfaction scale and Semantic differential scale, it showed poorly satisfied group perceived same as the first two groups but the comparative lowest degree (Refer Table 4.8).

II. On the bases of the results of the Tree Segmentation method (Refer Fig. 4.1), the whole sample was classified into two groups: middle & highest income group and lower income group. It was found that the annual income of people was the most significant variable led to the classification of the whole sample into two groups. In
Node 1. Individuals belonged to middle & higher income group was found to be 28.3% highly satisfied, 59.2% moderately satisfied and only 12.5% poorly satisfied with their overall life satisfaction. On the other side, Node 2, respondents belonging to lower income group only 12.2% people were highly satisfied, 62.2% moderately satisfied and 25.7% poorly satisfied with their overall life satisfaction. Further classification of Node 1 into Node 3 and 4 took place. Gender of people was the second most significant variable found in the study under sub-group segmentation, which classified middle & higher income group income group in two categories: Node 3 of males and Node 4 of the females. It was found that in Node 3, Males were 23.7% highly satisfied, 62.9% moderately satisfied and only 13.4% poorly satisfied with their overall life satisfaction. On the other side in Node 4, Females were 40.7% highly satisfied, 49.1% moderately satisfied and only 10.2% poorly satisfied with their overall life satisfaction. It revealed that females were relatively highly satisfied in their overall life satisfaction than males.

III. On the basis of mean value (\( \bar{x} = 5.10 \)) of sample data of overall life satisfaction ratings, it was found that people were somewhat satisfied in their overall life satisfaction (Refer Table 4.12).

IV. By comparing the mean values of overall life satisfaction ratings, it was found that perceived quality of life of males and females seemed to be same (Refer Table 4.15).

V. By comparing the mean values of overall life satisfaction ratings, it was found that perceived quality of life of people varied with different age groups. Perceived quality of life of people of age group 46-55 years was better than people of 26-35 years and 36-45 year age groups (Refer Table 4.17).

VI. By comparing the mean values of overall life satisfaction ratings, it is found that perceived quality of life of post-graduates, graduates and below-graduates were same (Refer Table 4.20).

VII. By comparing the mean values of overall life satisfaction ratings, it was found that perceived quality of life of people varied with their marital status. Marrieds were found to be more satisfied than unmarried (Refer Table 4.23).
VIII. By comparing the mean values of overall life satisfaction ratings, it was found that perceived quality of life of people varied with their income levels. People who belonged to the higher and middle-income group were more satisfied than lower income group in their perceived quality of life (Refer Table 4.25).

IX. By comparing mean values of overall life satisfaction ratings, it was found that perceived quality of life of people lived in different areas like Central Gujarat, South Gujarat, Saurashtra, and North Gujarat were same (Refer Table 4.28).

X. By comparing the mean values of overall life satisfaction ratings, it was found that perceived quality of life of people lived in rural and urban Gujarat was the same (Refer Table 4.31).

XI. By applying exploratory factor analysis, six latent factors were explored from 20 observed variables. Labelling of six factors had done as Government satisfaction, Material possession satisfaction, Environmental quality satisfaction, Work life satisfaction, Spirituality satisfaction and Physical health satisfaction. Going further, by applying multiple regression analysis relationships between Overall Life satisfaction and these six factors were examined. It was found that all six factors (Domains of life satisfaction) were having a significant relationship with overall life satisfaction. A regression model was found to be significant which explained 34.5% of the variance in overall life satisfaction (Refer Table 4.39). Respondents were found to be quite satisfied with Material Possession and Physical Health, while they were observed to be least satisfied with Environmental satisfaction variable among the 6 domains of life satisfaction (Refer Table 4.41).

XII. By applying confirmatory factor analysis relationship between Overall Life satisfaction and six factors (Government satisfaction, Material possession satisfaction, Environmental quality satisfaction, Work life satisfaction, Spirituality satisfaction and Physical health satisfaction) were validated. Construct validity, Convergent validity, Discriminant validity and Nomological validity were proved (Refer Table 4.45, 4.46 & 4.47).
5.3 CONCLUSION OF THE STUDY

This study had measured perceived quality of life of people in the context of Gujarat’s culture. It was proved that culture, having a strong impact on the quality of life of people (Diener and Suh 2000). The culture of Gujarat had a strong influence over the quality of life of people in Gujarat. The characteristics of Gujarati culture were observed during the research were; Gujarati people are religious and spiritual in nature, most of the respondents were attached with any of the religious groups like Swaminarayan, Jainism, etc. and most of the people lived in joint families. A satisfied quality of life of people in Gujarat was one of the outcomes of a heritage culture of Gujarat.

Highly satisfied group of people were having a positive orientation towards their perceived quality of life. They sense their lives as Enjoying, Interesting, Active, Happy, Meaningful, Worthwhile, Rewarding, Easy, Relaxed, Full of Fun and Comfortable. On the other side, the moderately satisfied group was also perceived the same as a highly satisfied group but in a comparatively lesser degree. The poorly satisfied group was having poor ratings on overall life satisfaction scale and semantic differential scale, it shows dissatisfied groups perceived the same as the first two groups but in comparative lowest degree.

The annual income of people was the most significant variable which classified the whole sample into two groups; the middle & higher income group and lower income group. For further classification of sub-group segmentation, Gender of people was the second most significant variable in the study, which classified middle & higher income group in two categories, where it concluded that females were more satisfied than males.

Gujarat has a heritage culture of peace and prosperity. All over Gujarat, people were somewhat satisfied towards their overall life irrespective of different education, area, income, etc. All credit goes to a good culture of Gujarat.

In terms of gender difference, there was no gender difference in perceived quality of life of people in Gujarat. Males and females were equally satisfied in their lives. A credit goes to the culture of Gujarat and consistent efforts of the government of Gujarat in the area of women empowerment.
In terms of an age difference, perceived quality of life of people of 46-55 years age groups were significantly better than people of 26-35 years and 36-45 year age groups. Here, maybe people of 46-55 years age group perceived more stabilize in their life compared to the rest of two age groups. This is a good sign for the state.

In terms of education, perceived quality of life of post-graduates, graduates, and undergraduates were the same. This is also an impact of the good culture of Gujarat.

In terms of marital status, perceived quality of life of married was better than unmarried. This might be because of marrieds were more focused.

In terms of income status, perceived quality of life of people of a higher-income group and a middle-income group were better than a lower-income group. It is quite clearly understood that income or material possession is one of the strong influencing factors affecting the quality of life.

In terms of geographical region, perceived quality of life of the people was same in all four geographical zones of Gujarat; Central Gujarat, South Gujarat, Saurashtra, and North Gujarat. It was the biggest achievement of the Government of Gujarat to maintain uniform development all across Gujarat.

In terms of rural vs urban Gujarat, perceived quality of life of the people was same. Again, it was a very big achievement of the government of Gujarat. A balanced growth in urban and rural Gujarat has been maintained by consistent efforts of the government of Gujarat.

In terms of domains of life satisfaction, six domains of life satisfaction were identified which have an influence on the quality of life of people. These domains: Government satisfaction, Material possession satisfaction, Environmental quality satisfaction, Work life satisfaction, Spirituality satisfaction and Physical health satisfaction. Total 34.5% of the variance in overall life satisfaction of individuals had explained by these six domains of life satisfaction. Material possession satisfaction and physical health satisfaction were more influenced factors compared with rest.
5.4 CONTRIBUTION TO KNOWLEDGE

This section comprised of the original contribution of the study, which is the most important part of the research and highly recommended by the research society. Here, a list of contributions mentioned below:

1. **A Problem statement:** The problem statement of the study “To measure a perceived quality of life of people in Gujarat” is a comparative novel idea where the subjective approach of measuring the well-being of people was used.

2. **Research Methodology:** Sampling designed was one of the unique contributions of this study where an attempt was made to collect data from the whole state under a limitation of resources and time.

3. **Questionnaire Designed:** Life domain satisfaction scale was developed for the study, which was one of the most crucial contributions of the study. To measures different domains of life satisfaction for which different statements were chosen. Selection of most the appropriate statement and their sequence was the challenge. Also to maintain the length of the questionnaire was also challengeable. But in last, the questionnaire was developed through which successfully 6 factors (Domains of Life satisfaction) were extracted which accounts 34.5 % of variability defined in overall life satisfaction of people.

4. **Perceived Quality of Life Model:** The major and unique contribution given by the study is the Perceived Quality of Life (PQoL), Model. PQoL model was validated by the confirmatory factor analysis method.

5. **Implications of the study:** The implications of the study were also one of the unique contributions of the study.
5.5 IMPLICATIONS OF THE STUDY

This study having 360-degree impacts on all stakeholders of society, also its finding clarifies many misinterpretations of human psychology. Subjective well-being is a comparatively new approach to human society and having a history of approx. 50 years, but its practical implications have accepted by the world in the year 2012. World Happiness Index and ministry of Well-being in UAE are the big examples of it.

An Implication of the study to the government of Gujarat & India

The findings of the study may play a big role in policymaking. As we know, in our country a huge gap has found between the needs of society and government policies. To fulfil this gap many time feedback surveys have conducted by the government, like for Indian Railways modernization, Indian railway’s continuing taking feedbacks from passengers about service quality and areas of improvements. In India, we have seen that even prestigious planning commission (now NITI Aayog) gets fail to formulate successful policies and its implementation in last 64 years. The government doesn’t know about the needs of the specific sector, resultant development initiatives do not resolve problems. Budgets are prepared on the basis of socioeconomic surveys which are purely based on objective measures of households, hence very less informative. Resultants poor policies are formed and only a few people get benefits and a major portion of society which required immediate help from the government remains to deprive of any kind of action of the government.

Such studies help the government to understand the people’s requirements, it may act like a voice of people and helps policymakers to make policy, its planning and implementation accordingly. Like if people are more concerned about housing issues, so the government needs to form policies which promote housing schemes in countries, If people are found dissatisfied with government economic policies, infrastructure growth, children’s education, health facilities, then policies are needed to frame accordingly. Subjective well-being study is very informative, resulted in most of the developed countries; it is widely used for policy formations. In India, few NGO (Non-government Organizations) and T.V. channels conducted (public polls) people’s opinion surveys during elections. That is also a subjective well-being study, which plays a significant role to determine people’s
perception of their quality of life. In future, such studies will act as a performance indicator.

Other benefits of such studies are like Government policies are formed without considering the diversity among people. India is the country of diversities, here huge differences found in social, economic, demographic characteristics of people. Standardized policies will never work in India. With the help of subjective well-being studies, the government can make customized policies as per the requirement of a particular group of people.

A government may also apply the methodology of the study at sensitive areas of countries where real development is much needed and even priorities of areas of development need to know. It may very much helpful for the government to take steps for development; also it may give maximum benefit during budget preparation.

Nowadays, Happiness index is the most popular approach to measure the well-being of nations. Many countries are following it. In India, still objective approach of measuring well-being has been used and a public welfare policy has been formed accordingly. India has been used HDI Index, which is based on the few indicators of the well-being of people. In the future, India will need to adopt one holistic approach of measuring well-being like happiness Index. In future, may India apply Happiness Index to measure well-being in the country in place of Human Development Index (HDI)?

**An implication of the study to the welfare organizations**

Welfare organizations like NGO (Non-government Organizations), Organizations involved in CSR (Corporate social responsibility) activities, etc. are having common goals to give maximum benefits to needy people. This will only become possible when they can examine the current state of society. They require information on the quality of life of people. Such studies may provide meaningfully and customize required information to such organizations. If you can see for the last 70 years, assessing wellbeing is the biggest challenge. This study will give relief to NGOs and other welfare organizations and to policymakers.
An implication of the study of the people of Gujarat

The biggest beneficiaries of the study are people of Gujarat itself because this study had explored their quality of life and the factors which affect their overall life satisfaction. Due to such studies, people may realize the importance of their active participation in a survey of such studies. In the future by better awareness and participation of people, better results may be achieved. Due to such studies, many people start to evaluate their overall quality of life and domains of life satisfaction. It may help them to achieve happiness in life.

An implication of the study to the field of economics and public policy

Each research makes its contribution to the related field of studies. This study may also add its unique methodology of assessing well-being and its results in the field of advanced economies. The model of perceived quality of life was developed by the study is one of the major contribution to literature and helpful for upcoming researches. The study is a small example of a way of doing research, in this field. In an upcoming era, research may occur in this field because the world economics are working on this part. This research is expected to impact the following areas of public policy:

a) Economic development and well-being.
b) Cultural cohesion with diversity has overtaken on the well-being.
c) The government should certainly work on enhancing income levels for ensuring material well-being, and
d) A long-spell of “ethnic conflict free” regime has an influence on the life satisfaction. A future study must address ethnic differences.

5.6 SCOPE FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

This study has broadly focused on to examine overall life satisfaction and the factors (domains) of life satisfaction of people in Gujarat. The study has limitation like to consider a person who is doing the job with an age group of 26-55 years, an annual income of ₹1.20 lakhs - ₹12.00 lakhs and minimum education status of S.S.C. As per the time and resource constraints, 785 respondents were included in the study. The study had excluded the people of tribal areas of Gujarat.
This study may carry forward in many ways. This study has presented one research methodology for assessing the well-being of people. The same methodology may use to assess the well-being of adolescent, younger and older people. We can also measure the well-being of people in tribal areas of Gujarat. The study may also, carry forward to measure the well-being of people in slums or any other particular class or category in terms of socioeconomic categories.

Subjective assessment of the quality of life is a comparatively new concept and not much history is available. Especially countries like India this topic is new and has a very broad scope for further studies. This study was restricted up to Gujarat with a limited sample size of 785 respondents. For further studies, research may study people who are engaged in business, profession, agriculture, etc. Even measure the quality of life of the unemployed, etc. Topic has huge potential for further studies and very essential for society in numerous ways. The study may also carry forward to other states of India like North-eastern states, Jammu & Kashmir etc. also, the whole country’s well-being can measure this way and Well-being Index of India will be constructed.

5.7 COMPARISON OF THE RESULT WITH EARLIER STUDY

The result of this study has been compared with the result of a study done by Dasgupta and Majumdar (1996). Finding of both studies has mentioned below:

**Findings of Dasgupta and Majumdar (1996):** They found that socioeconomic status was not significantly related to perceived quality of life. They found that people of 21-35 years and 56 years or older were comparatively more satisfied than the people of 36-55 years age group. The sex difference was found insignificant. They examined the association between overall life satisfactions with domains of life satisfaction. Satisfaction with self-development, Family life, Material possession, and Local government administration were found significant. Local government administration was the most influential domain.

**The findings of the current study:** Study found that people of Gujarat were somewhat satisfied towards their perceived quality of life. The study found that difference in people’s gender, educational status, and residence area were insignificant related to perceived quality of life. The study found that people of age group 46-55 years were comparatively more satisfied with their perceived quality of life than people of age group 26-35 years and
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36-45 years. The study found that married were better perceived quality of life than unmarried. The study found that individuals with higher and middle income groups were comparatively more satisfied with their perceived quality of life than people of lower income group. The study examined the association between overall life satisfactions with domains of life satisfaction. Six domains were found significant; Material Possession Satisfaction, Physical Health Satisfaction, Spirituality Satisfaction, Government Satisfaction, Work life Satisfaction and Environmental Satisfaction. Material Possession and Physical Health Satisfaction were more influential, followed by Spirituality Satisfaction, Government Satisfaction, Work life Satisfaction, and Environmental Satisfaction.