CHAPTER 5

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION
CHAPTER – FIVE

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In the present research, the author intended to study role of alexithymia, borderline personality disorder, marital status, and gender in life satisfaction of middle agers. The obtained data were analyzed through appropriate statistics in the previous chapter. The results are discussed in the present chapter, wherein independent and joint role of these four independent variables are discussed in regard to life satisfaction.

A. INDEPENDENT ROLE OF FACTOR

(A-1) ROLE OF ALEXITHYMIA IN LIFE SATISFACTION

The first problem of the present research pertained to role of alexithymia in life satisfaction of middle agers. It had been hypothesized that low alexithymic middle agers would have greater life satisfaction in comparison to high alexithymic middle agers.

It is clear from Table 3 that average life satisfaction score of low alexithymic middle agers (M = 37.70, Fig. 1) is higher than that of high alexithymic middle agers (M = 34.8333, Fig. 1). The obtained F-ratio (F = 15.19, Table 4) is significant at .01 level of significance for level 216 degrees of freedom. Apart from it, 7 t values were also computed (Table 5) to check significance of the differences between high alexithymic and low alexithymic middle agers in respect of their life satisfaction. It is clear from Table 5 that 6 of the total 7 computed t ratios are significant at either .05 or .01 level of significance (Fig. 2 to 8).
Figure # 1: Average Life Satisfaction Scores Of High Alexithymic And Low Alexithymic Middle Agers (As Per Table 3)

Figure # 2: Average Life Satisfaction Scores Of High Alexithymic And Low Alexithymic Middle Agers (Normal Group) (As Per Table 5)
Figure # 3: Average Life Satisfaction Scores Of High Alexithymic And Low Alexithymic Middle Agers (BPD Group) (As Per Table 5)

Figure # 4: Average Life Satisfaction Scores Of High Alexithymic And Low Alexithymic Middle Agers (Unmarried Group) (As Per Table 5)
Figure # 5: Average Life Satisfaction Scores Of High Alexithymic And Low Alexithymic Middle Agers (Married (Couple) Group) (As Per Table 5)

Figure # 6: Average Life Satisfaction Scores Of High Alexithymic And Low Alexithymic Middle Agers (Married (Single) Group) (As Per Table 5)
Figure # 7: Average Life Satisfaction Scores Of High Alexithymic And Low Alexithymic Middle Agers (Male Group) (As Per Table 5)

Figure # 8: Average Life Satisfaction Scores Of High Alexithymic And Low Alexithymic Middle Agers (Female Group) (As Per Table 5)
All these significant statistical findings strongly suggest that low alexithymic middle agers truly enjoy greater life satisfaction than high alexithymic middle agers. It is interesting to note that, the difference between high and low alexithymic unmarried middle agers (Table 5) in regard to their life satisfaction is not significant. It indicates that it is the marriage which adds to difference in life satisfaction of high and low alexithymic middle agers.

The finding of the present research is inconsonance to those of Fukunishi et al. (1999), Honkalampi et al. (1999), Honkalampi et al. (2000), Taylor (2000), Valkamo et al. (2001a, 2001b), Le et al. (2002), Honkalampi et al. (2004), Taylor & Bagby (2004), Mattila et al. (2007), and Hesse & Floyd (2008).

Alexithymia is defined by difficulty in identifying feelings and distinguishing between feelings and the bodily sensations of emotional arousal, by difficulty in describing feelings to other people; by constricted imaginal process, as evidenced by a scarcity of fantasies, and by a stimulus-bound, externally oriented cognitive style (Sifneos, 1973; Taylor et al., 1997; Blaustein & Tuber, 1998; Lane et al., 2000; Taylor, 2000; Taylor & Bagby, 2004; and Vanheule et al., 2006, 2007).

Chaotic interpersonal relationship due to consistent less accurate emotion regulation leads high alexithymic middle agers to suffer several medical conditions and mental health problems including depression which in turn flare up the feeling of dissatisfaction with life. High alexithymic middle agers are unable or inadequate at differentiating between self and others which deprive them to develop self-identity, which otherwise would have been the source of self-esteem and thus life satisfaction in turn. Cold, distant, and non-assertive social functioning of high alexithymic middle agers do deprive these people from emotional and social support even from close relationships, putting these middle agers at chaotic mental state leading to life dissatisfaction.
Probably, these may be the reasons of poorer life satisfaction of high alexithymic middle agers than low alexithymic middle agers, as has been observed in the present research.

(A-2) ROLE OF BORDERLINE PERSONALITY DISORDER IN LIFE SATISFACTION

The second problem of the present research pertained to role of borderline personality disorder in life satisfaction of middle agers. It had been hypothesized that normal middle agers would have greater life satisfaction in comparison to middle agers with borderline personality disorder.

A perusal of Table 3 clarifies that average life satisfaction score of normal middle ager (M = 39.25, Fig. 9) is higher than that of middle agers with borderline personality disorder (M = 32.2833, Fig. 9). The obtained F-ratio for this difference (F = 65.82, Table 4) is significant at .01 level of significance for 1 and 216 degrees of freedom. Apart from it, all the computed t ratios are also found significant either at .05 or .01 level of significance in this regard (Table 6, and Fig. 10-16).

![Figure # 9: Average Life Satisfaction Scores Of Normal And BPD Groups Of Middle Agers (As Per Table 3)](image-url)
Figure # 10:  Average Life Satisfaction Scores Of Normal And BPD Middle Agers (High Alexithymic Group) (As Per Table 6)

Figure # 11:  Average Life Satisfaction Scores Of Normal And BPD Middle Agers (Low Alexithymic Group) (As Per Table 6)
Figure # 12: Average Life Satisfaction Scores Of Normal And BPD Middle Agers 
(Unmarried Group) (As Per Table 6)

Figure # 13: Average Life Satisfaction Scores Of Normal And BPD Middle Agers 
(Married (Couple) Group) (As Per Table 6)
Figure # 14: Average Life Satisfaction Scores Of Normal And BPD Middle Agers (Married (Single) Group) (As Per Table 6)

Figure # 15: Average Life Satisfaction Scores Of Normal And BPD Middle Agers (Male Group) (As Per Table 6)
All these significant statistics provide empirical ground to believe that normal middle agers truly showed greater life satisfaction than middle agers with borderline personality disorder. The findings confirmed the research hypothesis and are in consonance to those of Trull et al., 1997; and Leible & Snell, 2004).

Middle agers with BPD are marked by instability, not only in their behaviour, but in their relationships also. The relationships are mostly intense, emotional, and potentially violent. When such middle agers feel the fear of losing a relationship, their self-image and behaviour change rapidly which has devastating results for the relationship. Their attitude changes from friendly and dependent to very angry and aggressive. Oftenly middle agers with BPD look at themselves as “evil” or “bad”. They tend to have strong emotions, including panic, anger, and despair. This pervasive pattern of impulsivity and instability, along with self-damaging behaviour, both physical and psychological, leads to an absolutely dissatisfactory state of mind making such middle agers with BPD have lower life satisfaction than normal middle agers.
BPD traits are associated with problematic mood pattern of uncontrollable anger and affective liability. People with features of BPD are more likely to meet lifetime criteria for mood disorder and experience greater interpersonal dysfunction than their normal comparison groups. This heightened impulsivity with affective liability prone BPD middle agers to be in irritable and aggressive mental state all the time and thus depriving themselves from feelings of life satisfaction.

Evidence for a dopamioergic dysfunction is also observed in BPD (Philipsen, 2008). Apart from it, serotonergic and noradrenergic dysfunctions are also responsible for impulsivity and aggression in BPD patients. Schmahl & Bremner (2006) observed smaller hippocampus as well as amygdala volumes in adult patients with BPD. It seems that neurological and hormonal dysfunctions may also be playing their key role in BPD symptoms, which lead to perceived life dissatisfaction.

(A-3) ROLE OF MARITAL STATUS IN LIFE SATISFACTION

The third problem of the research pertained to role of marital status in life satisfaction of middle agers. It had been hypothesized that middle aged married couples would exhibit higher level of life satisfaction than unmarried and married singles. Unmarried middle agers would be the lowest in this regard.

A perusal of Table 3 clarifies that average life satisfaction scores of three marital status groups i.e., unmarried, married (couple), and married (single) are 34.475, 37.8375, and 36.4875, respectively (Fig. 17).
An F-ratio was computed in a four-way ANOVA (Table 4). The obtained F-ratio ($F = 7.05$) is significant at .01 level of significance for 2 and 216 degrees of freedom, indicating that there did exist true variance in life satisfaction of middle agers due to their marital status i.e., unmarried, married (couple), and married (single).

Apart from F-ratio, protected t test was also employed to check significance of differences between two marital status groups (Table 7). It is clear form the table that the difference between married (single) and unmarried (MD = 2.0125, $P<.05$, df 237) and the difference between married (couple) and unmarried (MD = 3.3625, $P<.01$, 237) are significant while the difference between married (single) and married (couple) (MD = 1.35, $P<.05$, df 237) is not significant at any acceptable level of significance. These findings, based on protected t test, also support the conclusion drawn based on F-statistic.

It is clear that married middle agers had shown greater life satisfaction than unmarried who did show the poorest level of life satisfaction.

**Figure #17: Average Life Satisfaction Scores Of Unmarried, Married (Couple), And Married (Single) Middle Agers (As Per Table 3)**

[73]
With marriage people engage in a long term relationship with a strong commitment to a mutually rewarding exchange. The spouse expects some benefits from the partner’s expressed love, gratitude, and recognition, as well as form security and martial rewards. Marriage provides basic insurance against adverse life events.

Marriage, specially in Indian scenario, is such an institute which has deep cultural roots and being one the most celebrated event of life. Every youth either male or female along with his family members do wish and make their best efforts to see one married with best of one’s choice. The rituals performed right from fixation of marriage to marriage itself and further life events are highly enjoyable and cherished and thus leave a permanent positive impression on one’s memory. The birth of child, his nurturance with all due love and concern, sacrifices made by parents for his upbringing continue till parents’ last breath. During middle age most of the married couples enjoy their best family life due to marriage of their children and further cherished state of grand parenting add to their life satisfaction. Apart from all these, the shared state of physical, psychological, and social interactions also contribute greater to life satisfaction of married middle agers. Marriage may produce positive outcomes. Social integration and social support are two such mechanisms highlighted by Coombs (1991), Waite & Lehrer (2003), and Zimmermann & Easterlin (2006).

Even those married middle agers who live singly due to any reason i.e., death of spouse, divorce or separate living etc., still feel privileged to have lived a family life or may still be enjoying family life with younger ones, can be reasoned to have greater life satisfaction in comparison to unmarried middle agers.

An unmarried middle ager is deprived of personal family. It may be possible that during his productive working life and caring aging parents and other family members, he may not feel the need of personal family, but at the dawn of
productive life and finding others settled in their personal life, he observes a vacuum in his own life leading to poorer life satisfaction in this unmarried middle ager. Lack of physical, psychological, and social interactions in the life space also deteriorates the life satisfaction of this unmarried middle ager.

All these may be the reasons of higher life satisfaction of married middle agers in comparison to those of unmarried middle agers.


(A-4) ROLE OF GENDER IN LIFE SATISFACTION

The fourth problem pertained to role of gender in life satisfaction of middle agers. It was expected that male middle agers would show higher level of life satisfaction than female middle agers.

It is clear from Table 3 that average life satisfaction score of male middle agers (35.8083, Fig. 18) is lesser than that of female middle agers (36.725, Fig. 18). The obtained nonsignificant F-ratio provides ample statistical ground to refute the research hypothesis in favour of males, accepting the null hypothesis in the regard.

Apart from F-statistic, 7 t ratios were also computed to check significance of differences between males and females belonging to various sub-groups (Table 8, Fig. 19-25). None of the obtained t ratios is found significant, providing further empirical support to the conclusion drawn on the basis of F statistic.
**Figure # 18: Average Life Satisfaction Scores Of Male and Female Middle Agers (As Per Table 3)**

**Figure # 19: Average Life Satisfaction Scores Of Male And Female High Alexithymic Middle Agers (As Per Table 8)**
Figure # 20: Average Life Satisfaction Scores Of Male And Female Low Alexithymic Middle Agers (As Per Table 8)

Figure # 21: Average Life Satisfaction Scores Of Male And Female Unmarried Middle Agers (As Per Table 8)
Figure # 22: Average Life Satisfaction Scores Of Male And Female Married (Couple) Middle Agers (As Per Table 8)

Figure # 23: Average Life Satisfaction Scores Of Male And Female Married (Single) Middle Agers (As Per Table 8)
Though, it was hypothesized that male middle agers would enjoy higher life satisfaction than female middle agers, the data showed the reverse pattern, in
favour of female middle agers. However, the nonsignificant finding provided empirical ground to accept the difference as ingenuine.

The modern era of egalitarian concept has narrowed the gender difference in all domains of human behaviour. Earlier male middle agers peak professional success and dominant family status provided him sound ground to enjoy greater life satisfaction than female middle agers. Due to change in the society which encouraged females to be parallel to males at education, family, work, and social fronts, working female middle agers also enjoy a true respectable status in the society which enhances their life satisfaction. Even homemakers also cherish a loving and respected status in family now contributing to their enhanced life satisfaction.

All these changed scenario in favour of females have narrowed the gender difference, and rather encouraged females even to enjoy greater life satisfaction as has been found in the present research, though at marginal level.

The finding of the present research is in consonance to those of Andrews & Whitney (1976), Campbell et al. (1976), Haring et al. (1984), Pavot et al. (1991), Diener & Diener (1995), Dorahy et al. (1996), Hamarat et al. (2001), and Zhang (2005).

B. INTERACTION EFFECT OF FACTORS

The problems raised above are confined to the operation of a single factor at a time. But, it would be a lopsided study, if we do not delve into the interaction between the two or more factors. In general, when a number of individuals or items are grouped according to general factors of classification, and these factors are not independent, there is said to be interaction between them. The interaction is a measure of the extent to which the effect upon the dependent variable of changing the level of one factor depends upon the level of others. Thus, for the two treatments P and N, each of two levels (0, 1), the effects of four treatment combinations can be written as \(n_0p_0\), \(n_0p_1\), \(n_1p_0\), and \(n_1p_1\). If the treatments are
independent, the effect of varying ‘n’ from \( n_0 \) to \( n_1 \) would be the same with \( p_0 \) and \( p_1 \). The extent to which this is not so is a measure of interaction.

**FIRST-ORDER INTERACTION EFFECTS**

(A-1) **JOINT ROLE OF ALEXITHYMIA AND BORDERLINE PERSONALITY DISORDER IN LIFE SATISFACTION**

The problem here pertained to joint role of alexithymia and borderline personality disorder in life satisfaction of middle agers. It had been hypothesized that there would exist true joint role of alexithymia and borderline personality disorder (BPD) in life satisfaction of middle agers.

A perusal of Table 9 clarifies that average life satisfaction scores of four sub-groups formed on joint basis of alexithymia and BPD i.e., normal-high alexithymia, normal-low alexithymia, BPD-high alexithymia, and BPD-low alexithymia, are 37.10, 41.40, 32.5667, and 34.00, respectively (Fig. 26).

![Figure # 26: Average Life Satisfaction Scores Of Four Sub-Groups Formed On Joint Basis Of Alexithymia And BPD (Significant Interaction Effect – Table 4 & 9)](image-url)
The obtained significant F-ratio \((F = 3.80, P<.05, \text{df } 1 \text{ and } 216, \text{ Table } 4)\) provides ample statistical ground to believe that there did exit true joint role of alexithymia and BPD in life satisfaction of middle agers. In other words, it can be said that the four sub-groups did differ genuinely in regard to their life satisfaction.

More specifically, it can be concluded that the difference between high and low alexithymia groups in respect of their life satisfaction truly varied due to differential state of BPD i.e., normal and BPD or vice-versa.

(A-2) JOINT ROLE OF ALEXITHYMIA AND MARITAL STATUS IN LIFE SATISFACTION

The next first-order interaction effect problem pertained to joint role of alexithymia and marital status in life satisfaction of middle agers. It was hypothesized that the two factors would play their true joint role in life satisfaction of middle agers.

It is clear from Table 10 that average life satisfaction scores of six sub-groups formed on joint basis of alexithymia and marital status i.e., unmarried-high alexithymia, unmarried-low alexithymia, married couple-high alexithymia, married (couple)-low alexithymia, married (single)-high alexithymia, and married (single)-low alexithymia, are 34.125, 34.825, 34.90, 40.775, 35.475, and 37.50, respectively (Fig. 27).
The obtained significant F-ratio \( F = 4.45, P<.05, \text{df} 1 \text{ and } 216, \text{Table 4} \) provides ample statistical ground to conclude that alexithymia and marital status played their true joint role in life satisfaction of middle agers. In other words, it can be said that the six sub-groups formed on joint basis of alexithymia and marital status truly varied in regard to their life satisfaction, thus, confirming the research hypothesis, refuting the null hypothesis in this regard.

More specifically, it can also be said that the difference in average life satisfaction scores of high and low alexithymic middle agers truly varied due to their differential marital status i.e., unmarried, married (couple), and married (single). On the basis of individual roles of these two variables, it can further be reasoned that high alexithymic unmarried middle agers’ life satisfaction level \((M = 34.125)\) was the lowest while that of low alexithymic married (couple) was the highest \((40.775)\).
(A-3) JOINT ROLE OF ALEXITHYMIA AND GENDER IN LIFE SATISFACTION

The third first-order interaction problem pertained to joint role of alexithymia and gender in life satisfaction. It had been assumed that the two factors would play their considerable joint role in life satisfaction of middle agers.

A perusal of Table 11 and Fig. 28 clarifies that average life satisfaction scores of four sub-groups formed on joint basis of alexithymia and gender i.e., high alexithymic males, low alexithymic males, high alexithymic females, and low alexithymic females, are 34.1667, 37.45, 35.50, and 37.949, respectively.

Figure # 28: Average Life Satisfaction Scores Of Four Sub-Groups Formed On Joint Basis Of Alexithymia And Gender (Non-Significant Interaction Effect – Table 4 & 11)

The obtained nonsignificant interaction F-ratio (F = 0.32, P>.05, df 1 & 216, Table 4) provides empirical ground to reject the research hypothesis, retaining the null hypothesis in regard to joint role of alexithymia and gender in life satisfaction of middle agers.
More specifically, it can be concluded that average life satisfaction scores of four sub-groups formed on joint basis of alexithymia and gender did not differ genuinely. In other words, the difference in life-satisfaction scores of high and low alexithymic middle agers did not vary genuinely for male and female middle agers or vice-versa.

Earlier, it has been observed that low alexithymic middle agers truly showed higher life satisfaction than high alexithymic middle agers while no true gender difference was observed in this regard. The obtained non-significant interaction effect further clarifies that insignificant gender difference in life satisfaction of middle agers is applicable similarly to high and low alexithymia groups.

(A-4) JOINT ROLE OF BORDERLINE PERSONALITY DISORDER AND MARITAL STATUS IN LIFE SATISFACTION

Another first-order interaction problem in the present research pertained to joint role of borderline personality disorder and marital status in life satisfaction of middle agers. It was hypothesized that the two independent variables would play their considerable joint role in life satisfaction of middle agers.

A perusal of Table 12 clarifies that average life satisfaction scores of six sub-groups formed on joint basis of borderline personality disorder and marital status are 37.475, 41.975, 38.30, 31.475, 33.70, and 34.675 (Fig. 29). The obtained significant F-ratio (F = 3.33, P<.05, df 2 & 216, Table 4) provides ample statistical ground to believe that the two independent variables did play genuine joint role in life satisfaction of middle agers.
Figure # 29: Average Life Satisfaction Scores Of Six Sub-Groups Formed On Joint Basis Of Borderline Personality Disorder And Marital Status (Significant Interaction Effect – Table 4 & 12)

More specifically, it can be said that the six sub-groups formed on joint basis of borderline personality disorder and marital status differed truly in respect of their life satisfaction. In other words, difference among three marital status groups in regard to their life satisfaction truly varied for normal and BPD groups of middle agers.

(A-5) JOINT ROLE OF BORDERLINE PERSONALITY DISORDER AND GENDER IN LIFE SATISFACTION

This first-order interaction problem pertained to joint role of borderline personality disorder and gender in life satisfaction of middle agers. It was hypothesized that the two independent variables would play their true joint role in life satisfaction of middle agers.

A perusal of Table 13 clarifies that average life satisfaction scores of four sub-groups formed on joint basis of borderline personality disorder and gender are 38.9333, 32.6833, 39.5667, and 33.8833 (Fig. 30). The obtained nonsignificant F-ratio (F = 0.15, P>.05, df 2 & 216, Table 4) provides ample statistical ground to conclude that BPD and gender did not play any true joint role in life satisfaction of
middle agers. Alternatively, it can said that the four BPD-gender sub-groups did not differ genuinely in regard to their life satisfaction.

![Average Life Satisfaction Scores Of Four Sub-Groups Formed On Joint Basis Of Borderline Personality Disorder And Gender (Nonsignificant Interaction Effect – Table 4 & 13)](image)

**Figure # 30: Average Life Satisfaction Scores Of Four Sub-Groups Formed On Joint Basis Of Borderline Personality Disorder And Gender (Nonsignificant Interaction Effect – Table 4 & 13)**

Earlier, it has been observed that low BPD middle agers truly showed higher life satisfaction than normal middle agers. However, no considerable gender difference had been observed in life satisfaction of middle agers in the present research. The nonsignificant interaction statistic further clarifies that genuine difference in life satisfaction of normal and BPD middle agers did not vary considerably for male and female middle agers.

(A-6) JOINT ROLE OF MARITAL STATUS AND GENDER IN LIFE SATISFACTION

The last first-order interaction problem pertained to joint role of marital status and gender in life satisfaction of middle agers. It had been hypothesized that the two variables would play considerable joint role in life satisfaction of middle agers.

A perusal of Table 14 clarifies that average life satisfaction scores of six sub-groups formed on joint basis of marital status and gender i.e., unmarried male,
married (couple) male, married (single) male, unmarried female, married (couple) female, and married (single) female are 33.10, 37.65, 36.675, 35.85, 38.025, and 36.30, respectively (Fig. 31). The obtained nonsignificant F-ratio ($F = 1.64$, $P > .05$, df 2 & 216, Table 4) provides ample statistical ground to refute research hypothesis, retaining the null hypothesis in this regard. It can be concluded that marital status and gender did not play considerable joint role in life satisfaction of middle agers.

![Figure # 31: Average Life Satisfaction Scores Of Six Sub-Groups Formed On Joint Basis Of Marital Status And Gender (Nonsignificant Interaction Effect – Table 4 & 14)](image)

More specifically, it can be said that average difference among three marital status groups did not vary truly for male and female middle agers.

**SECOND-ORDER INTERACTION EFFECTS**

**(A-7) JOINT ROLE OF ALEXITHYMIA, BORDERLINE PERSONALITY DISORDER, AND MARITAL STATUS IN LIFE SATISFACTION**

The first second-order interaction problem pertained to joint role of alexithymia, borderline personality disorder, and marital status in life satisfaction of middle agers. It was assumed that the three independent variables would play their true joint role in life satisfaction of middle agers.
A perusal of Table 15 and Fig. 32 clarifies that average life satisfaction scores of twelve sub-groups formed on joint basis of alexithymia, borderline personality disorder, and marital status are 36.85, 37.60, 36.85, 31.40, 32.20, 34.10, 38.10, 46.35, 39.75, 31.55, 35.20, and 35.25, respectively. The obtained significant F-ratio ($F = 8.76, P<.01, df 2 & 216, Table 4$) provides ample statistical ground to believe that there did exist genuine differences among the twelve sub-groups in respect of their average life satisfaction scores.

![Graph](image)

**Figure # 32: Average Life Satisfaction Scores Of Twelve Sub-Groups Formed On Joint Basis Of Alexithymia, Borderline Personality Disorder, And Marital Status (Significant Interaction Effect – Table 4 & 15)**

More specifically, it can be said that the difference between high and low alexithymic middle agers in regard to their life satisfaction truly varied due to their normal or BPD state and due to their marital status i.e., unmarried, married (couple), and married (single), jointly. Perusal of Fig. 32 clarifies that low alexithymic normal married (couple) middle agers showed highest level of life satisfaction while high alexithymic BPD unmarried middle agers were the least satisfied with their life. The other sub-groups stood in between these two major sub-groups in regard to their life satisfaction.
(A-8) JOINT ROLE OF ALEXITHYMIA, BORDERLINE PERSONALITY DISORDER, AND GENDER IN LIFE SATISFACTION

This second-order interaction problem pertained to joint role of alexithymia, borderline personality disorder, and gender in life satisfaction of middle agers. It was expected that the three independent variables would play their true joint role in life satisfaction of middle agers.

It is clear from Table 16 and Fig. 33 that average life satisfaction scores of eight sub-groups formed on joint basis of these three independent variables are 36.133, 38.067, 32.20, 32.9333, 41.733, 41.067, 33.167, and 34.833, respectively. The obtained nonsignificant F-ratio (F = 1.97, P<.05, df 2 & 216, Table 4) provides ample statistical ground to refute the research hypothesis in this regard. It can be concluded that the three independent variables i.e., alexithymia, BPD, and gender did play true joint role in life satisfaction of middle agers. More specifically, it can be said that the difference in average life satisfaction scores of two gender groups genuinely varied for alexithymia-BPD groups.

Figure # 33: Average Life Satisfaction Scores Of Eight Sub-Groups Formed On Joint Basis Of Alexithymia, Borderline Disorder, And Gender (Significant Interaction Effect – Table 4 & 16)
The third second-order interaction problem in the present research pertained to joint role of alexithymia, marital status, and gender in life satisfaction of middle agers. It was hypothesized that the three independent variables would play true joint role in life satisfaction of middle agers.

It is clear from Table 17 and Fig. 34 that average life satisfaction scores of unmarried, married (couple), and married (single) middle agers belonging to high alexithymic male, high alexithymic female, low alexithymic male, and low alexithymic female groups are 33.05, 34.10, 35.35, 35.20, 35.70, 35.60, 33.15, 41.20, 38.00, 36.50, 40.35, and 37.00, respectively. The obtained significant F-ratio ($F = 6.63$, $P<.01$, df 2 & 216, Table 4) provides empirical ground to conclude that the twelve sub-groups of middle agers formed on joint basis of the three independent variables truly differed in respect of their life satisfaction.

**Figure # 34: Average Life Satisfaction Scores Of Twelve Sub-Groups Formed On Joint Basis Of Alexithymia, Marital Status, And Gender (Significant Interaction Effect – Table 4 & 17)**
In other words, it can be said that the differences among three marital status groups truly varied for high alexithymic males, high alexithymic females, low alexithymic males, and low alexithymic females.

(A-10) JOINT ROLE OF BORDERLINE PERSONALITY DISORDER, MARITAL STATUS, AND GENDER IN LIFE SATISFACTION

The last second-order interaction problem in the present investigation pertained to joint role of borderline personality disorder, marital status, and gender in life satisfaction of middle agers. It was hypothesized that the three independent variables would play genuine joint role in life satisfaction of middle agers.

It is clear from Table 18 and Fig. 35 that average life satisfaction scores of three marital status groups i.e., unmarried, married (couple), and married (single) middle agers belonging to four BPD-gender groups are 36.45, 41.70, 38.65, 38.50, 42.25, 37.95, 29.75, 33.60, 34.70, 33.20, 33.80, and 34.65, respectively. The obtained significant F-ratio (F = 5.09, P<.01, df 2 & 216, Table 4) provides ample statistical ground to conclude that the three independent variables truly played their joint role in life satisfaction of middle agers. In other words, it can be said that the differences among three marital status groups of middle agers in regard to their life satisfaction truly varied for four BPD-gender groups.
Third-order Interaction Effect

(A-11) Joint Role of Alexithymia, Borderline Personality Disorder, Marital Status, and Gender in Life Satisfaction

The last interaction and only third-order level interaction problem pertained to joint role of all the four variables considered in the present research. It was hypothesized that alexithymia, BPD, marital status, and gender would play true joint role in life satisfaction of middle agers.

Average life satisfaction scores of twenty four sub-groups formed on joint basis of all the four independent variables are given in Table 3. The obtained significant F-ratio ($F = 12.48$, $P < .01$, df 2 & 216, Table 4) provides empirical ground to conclude that there did exist true difference in life satisfaction of these 24 sub-groups of middle agers. More specifically, it can be said that difference in life satisfaction of unmarried, married (couple), and married (single) middle agers truly varied for six alexithymia-BPD-gender groups (Fig. 36).
Figure # 36: Average Life Satisfaction Scores Of Twenty Four Sub-Groups Formed On Joint Basis Of Alexithymia, Borderline Personality Disorder, Marital Status, And Gender (Significant Interaction Effect – Table 3 & 4)
LIMITATION & RECOMMENDATION

Variance in life satisfaction can be attributed to many demographic variables i.e., socio-economic status, education, occupational status, family structure, and age etc., which could not be considered in the present research. Apart from it, family environment, work, and family satisfaction are a few psychological variables which could not be considered, though vital.

Further researches are recommended to throw more light on this important dimension of human life taking into consideration these vital variables. Researches focusing on interventions to enhance life satisfaction can bring in applied aspect of psychological principles for human betterment.