

The Relationship between Leisure Satisfaction and Hopelessness

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ABSTRACT

The study aims to determine whether there is a significant difference between the satisfaction and hopelessness levels of individuals in leisure activities by certain variables. The study sample consisted of 250 volunteer students, 143 (% 62.4) males, and 107 (% 37.6) females, studying at İstanbul University-Cerrahpaşa Faculty of Sport Sciences. The participants were selected by random sampling method. Data collection instrument of the study involved a personal information form, the "Leisure Satisfaction Scale (LSS)" developed by Beard and Ragheb (29) and adapted into Turkish by Gökcé and Orhan (30), and "Beck Hopelessness Scale (BHS)" that was developed by Beck et al. (31) and adapted into Turkish by Seber et al. (32). Since the Kolmogorov-Smirnov test results revealed that the study data did not show a normal distribution, it was analyzed using T-Test, ANOVA, and Pearson Correlation Test. Significant differences were found between the LSS sub-dimensions by gender and department of the participants. Similar differences were also seen between the BHS sub-dimensions by gender. Besides, there was a significant negative relationship between LSS and BHS. It was concluded that leisure satisfaction and hopelessness levels vary by certain variables, and as satisfaction in leisure time increases, hopelessness decreases.

1. Introduction

Recent developments in technology and changes in the modern lifestyle have influenced agents' social environments and habits (1), which leads to a particular interest in leisure activities. (2). The research revealed that leisure contributes to protecting physical, cognitive, social, and emotional health and prevents the emergence of adverse outcomes. Leisure is not the only period when a person acts productively. However, the sense of freedom accompanying leisure is also a factor that a person subjectively makes the best sense of that period (3). Leisure activities allow people to voluntarily participate during the remaining time except for their work (4).

Yang (5) indicated that leisure activities help agents improve mental and physical health, increase participation in teamwork, develop creativity and productivity in daily life. Although leisure goals are diverse, the common goal is to be satisfied and gratified during leisure activities (6). Amestoy et al. (7) stated that leisure satisfaction is a complex human need met by the production and consumption of enjoyable experiences. In other words, it is closely related to the perceptions about leisure quality. In general, it refers to the pleasure and contentment with leisure activities (8). According to Chick et al. (9), leisure satisfaction is a function of the difference between conditions individuals think they deserve, expect or desire and the actual experiences.

Hope refers to the minimum expectations in achieving a future goal (10). Hopelessness can be explained as the absence of expectations for a specific outcome (11). A pessimistic point of view characterizes hopelessness and negative expectations for the future and generally involves the generalization of such an unfavorable perspective (12). Hopelessness and despair generally occur due to the interrelations between specific cognitive processes (13). According to the American Psychological Association (1997), the causes of hopelessness involve the followings:

- The loneliness that stems from the restriction of the activities,
- A health problem,
- Stress,
- Loss of faith in God (13).

In the literature, there have been several studies on leisure satisfaction (14-15-16-17-18-19-20-21-22-23) and hopelessness (24-10-25-26-27). However, there are very few studies addressing the relationship between leisure satisfaction and hopelessness. Hence, the current study aimed to clarify the relationships between leisure satisfaction and hopelessness.

2. Method

2.1. Research Model

The quantitative method is an objective research approach based on observation or measurement that can be repeated (28). A quantitative research method- a scanning model- was used in the study.

2.2. Research Group

The group consisted of 250 students, 143 (57.2%) males and 107 (42.8%) females, studying at Istanbul University-Cerrahpaşa Faculty of Sport Sciences. The participants were chosen by the random sampling method.

2.3. Data Collection Tools

Personal Information Form consists of four items to collect information about the gender, department, and welfare.

Leisure Satisfaction Scale (LSS) was developed by Beard and Raghep (29) to assess leisure satisfaction and adapted into Turkish by Gökçe and Orhan (30). The 5-point Likert type scale includes 24 items and six sub-scales (Psychological, Educational, Social, Relaxation, Physical, Aesthetics). The Cronbach alpha coefficient of the scale was .90.

Beck Hopelessness Scale (BHS) was developed by Beck et al. (31) and adapted to Turkish by Seber et al. (32). The tool assesses negative expectations for the future. It includes 20 items and three sub-scales (Feelings about the Future, Loss of Motivation, Future Expectations). The minimum score in the inventory is 0; the highest point is 20. High scores indicate a high level of hopelessness. The Cronbach alpha coefficient was .85 for the total scale; .78 for the "Feelings about the Future"; .72 for the "Loss of Motivation," and .72 for the "Future Expectations" sub-scales.

2.4. Data Analysis

The analysis was carried out with SPSS 20.0 package program. The percentage and frequency methods were used to describe the distribution of personal information. A Kolmogorov-Smirnov normality test was conducted to determine whether the data collected via an online Google Form had a normal distribution, and the test results indicated the unavailability of a normal distribution. After the normal distribution of the data was ensured, T-test and ANOVA tests were performed. Pearson Correlation test was also used for correlation analysis.

3. Results

Table 1. Demographic Information of Participants

		f	%
Gender	Male	143	57.2
	Female	107	42.8
	Total	250	100.0
Department	Physical Education and Sports	92	36.8
	Coaching	75	30.0
	Sport management	83	33.2
	Total	250	100.0
Welfare Status	High	33	13.2
	Medium	167	66.8
	Low	50	20.0
	Total	250	100.0

Table 1 shows the demographic information about the participants. According to the table, 57.2% were "male", and 42.8% were "female". Among them, 36.8% studied at the department of "Physical Education and Sports Teaching," 30% at "Coaching," and 33.2% at "Sports Management." 13.2% had a "high," 66.8% had "normal," and 20% had "low" level of welfare.

Table 2. T-Test Results between LSS-BHS Sub-Dimensions by Gender

		N	Ort.	Ss.	Sd.	t	p
LEISURE SATISFACTION SCALE (LSS)	Male	143	3.65	0.69	248	2.449	.000*
	Female	107	3.80	0.66			
Psychological	Male	143	3.37	0.88	248	.352	.851
	Female	107	3.64	0.87			
Educational	Male	143	3.62	0.89	248	1.988	.003*
	Female	107	3.80	0.81			
Social	Male	143	3.58	0.85	248	2.205	.004*
	Female	107	3.85	0.79			
Relaxation	Male	143	3.86	0.79	248	2.485	.000*
	Female	107	3.97	0.80			
Physical	Male	143	3.43	0.87	248	2.374	.010*
	Female	107	3.68	0.85			
Aesthetic	Male	143	3.67	0.78	248	1.115	.000*
	Female	107	3.88	0.75			
BECK HOPELESSNESS SCALE (BHS)	Male	143	5.45	3.91	248	4.385	.000*
	Female	107	7.38	3.17			
Feelings about the Future	Male	143	2.35	1.31	248	-.135	.894
	Female	107	2.22	1.43			
Loss of Motivation	Male	143	3.87	2.30	248	-2.815	.010*
	Female	107	4.81	2.89			
Future Expectations	Male	143	2.87	1.38	248	5.684	.000*
	Female	107	1.83	1.45			

Table 2 presents the T-test analysis results between LSS and BHS sub-dimensions by gender. As seen in the table above, there was no statistically significant difference between the "psychological" sub-dimension ($t_{(248)} = .352$, $p > 0.05$) by gender; but meaningful differences were found in "educational" ($t_{(248)} = 1.988$, $p < 0.05$), "social" ($t_{(248)} = 2.205$, $p < 0.05$), "relaxation" ($t_{(248)} = 2.485$, $p < 0.05$), "physical" ($t_{(248)} = 2.374$, $p < 0.05$), and "aesthetics" ($t_{(248)} = 1.115$, $p < 0.05$) sub-dimensions.

Besides, no statistically significant difference was found between the "feelings about the future" sub-dimension ($t_{(248)} = -.135$ $p > 0.05$) by gender, but a statistically significant difference was seen in "loss of motivation" ($t_{(248)} = -2.815$, $p < 0.05$) and "future expectations" sub-dimensions ($t_{(248)} = 5.684$, $p < 0.05$).

Table 3. Relationships between Leisure Time Satisfaction and Hopelessness

Hopelessness	Leisure Satisfaction	
	r	-.205
	p	.000*

Table 3 describes the relationships between the participants' leisure satisfaction and hopelessness levels. According to the analysis, there was a negative and low-level correlation between leisure satisfaction and hopelessness ($p < 0.05$) ($r = -.20$).

5. Discussion and Conclusion

This study aimed to describe leisure satisfaction and hopelessness levels by certain variables and clarify the relationship between leisure satisfaction and hopelessness.

According to the analysis, there was a statistically meaningful difference between leisure satisfaction by gender. In terms of the sub-dimensions, a significant difference was found between all sub-dimensions except the "psychological." It was observed that the mean scores of the female participants were higher than the male participants in those sub-dimensions. In other words, women got higher satisfaction during leisure activities than men. The studies in the literature also revealed that the participants achieved satisfaction during leisure activities in at least one sub-dimension, which is in parallel with the current findings (15-14-23-16-33-34).

A statistically significant difference was also seen in "loss of motivation" and "future expectations" sub-dimensions, except for "feelings about the future" by gender. Besides, a significant difference was measured in the total hopelessness scores by gender. It was determined that females' hopelessness scores were higher than males, so it can be inferred that women were more hopeless about the future than men. Özben and Argun (25) and Gençay (24) also emphasized a significant difference in the "loss of motivation" sub-dimension by gender, which shows similarity with the current findings. However, some studies found no significant difference (10-35).

There was a significant difference in the "social" sub-dimension by the departments of the participants. The students at the "coaching" department had a higher average than the students at other departments, which refers to a high level of leisure satisfaction. Kayabaşı et al. (36) also revealed a significant difference by department variable. Those results were parallel with the current findings. On the other hand, no significant difference was measured in hopelessness levels by the department. Kirimoğlu (26) also found no significant difference by the department variable.

The primary purpose of the study was to determine whether the leisure satisfaction levels of individuals affected their future expectations. The analysis results highlighted a negative and low-level relationship between leisure satisfaction and hopelessness scores of the participants. It was concluded that a high level of leisure satisfaction leads to less hopelessness. In this sense, previous studies have shown that leisure satisfaction enhanced the well-being of people (37), job satisfaction (38), life quality (39), motivation (40), and relieving depression (41) and loneliness (23). Thus, it can be stated that leisure satisfaction reduces hopelessness about the future.

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