

The Relationship between Income Satisfaction and Life Satisfaction of Divorced Old Persons in Korea: Focused on Child Relationship and Self-esteem

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Abstract

The purpose of this study was to investigate on the relationship between income satisfaction and life satisfaction of divorced elderly to life satisfaction, focused in child relationship satisfaction and self-esteem. The data of 286 divorced elderly people aged 60 or over among 14th data of Korea Welfare Panel. To achieve the purpose of this study, frequency, t-test, one-way ANOVA, and correlation analysis were performed using SPSS21.0. First, there was no difference in the life satisfaction of the elderly according to social and demographic statistics such as gender, age, education, and religion. Therefore, in the subsequent analysis, the sociodemographic characteristics of the divorced elderly were not statistically controlled. Second, to examine relationship among variables, namely, satisfaction with income, child relationship satisfaction, self-esteem, and life satisfaction, this study conducted correlation analysis, and found out that correlations among all the variables were significant. As the income satisfaction of the elderly divorced in Korea increased, the satisfaction with their children, self-esteem, and life satisfaction all increased. And, as the correlation coefficient is from .191 to .665, there is no risk of multicollinearity between variables. Third, next is the mean and standard deviation of each variable. Life satisfaction was 3.15 out of 5 points, higher than the median value of 3, and income satisfaction was 2.67 points, lower than the median value of 3 points. Child relationship satisfaction was 3.96 points out of 7 points, lower than the median value of 4 points. Nevertheless, the self-esteem was quite high at 3.33 out of 4 points.

Keywords: *Old-age divorce, Income satisfaction, Life satisfaction, Child relationship satisfaction, Correlation*

1. Introduction

Economic difficulties are an important issue in divorce in old age. Most of all, economic difficulties for both men and women are highly correlated with life satisfaction after divorce [1][2] and therefore, if the level of income or satisfaction with income is high, they are better adapted to the changed environment after divorce [3], which will eventually improve life satisfaction.

However, there is no disagreement that after divorce, they will face financial difficulties. Changes in the economic aspect after divorce are the most serious and realistic problems that

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can be faced after divorce enough to be expressed as an economic shock. Most of all, economic difficulties for both men and women are highly correlated with life satisfaction after divorce and therefore, if the level of income or satisfaction with income is high, they are better adapted to the changed environment after divorce, which will eventually improve life satisfaction.

And, the degree of satisfaction with the child and of cohesion with the child has important meanings in life in old age [4]. Relationships with children can be an important factor in forming a sense of self-esteem that you perceive as positive values. In the end, child relationship satisfaction has a positive effect on self-esteem, and self-esteem has a positive effect on life satisfaction again [5]. This is because self-esteem is a source of power for humans and strengthens the potential for successful adaptation of life [6].

In spite of the great influence of income satisfaction on life satisfaction in divorce in old age, researchers so far lacked interest in this. In particular, focusing on the relationship with children and self-esteem, no studies have been found to reveal the relationship between these two variables.

The purpose of this study was to the relationship between income satisfaction and life satisfaction of divorced elderly to life satisfaction through child relationship satisfaction and self-esteem., using data on divorced elderly people aged 60 or older among the 14th year data of Korea Welfare Panel 2019.

Specifically, this study is aimed to answer the following questions.

1. Is there any difference in life satisfaction according to the socio-demographic characteristics of divorced elderly?
2. 2. what is the general tendency of divorced elderly income satisfaction, relationship child relationship satisfaction, self-esteem, and life satisfaction, and what is the correlation between these variables?

2. Method

2.1. Research design

This study is a correlation study to reveal the relationship between income satisfaction and life satisfaction of Korean divorced seniors.

2.2. Research subject data collection procedure

The data used in this study are the data of 286 divorced elderly aged 60 or older among the data for the 14th year of the Korea Welfare Panel 2019 [7]. The Korea Welfare Panel receives research ethics from the National Bioethics Committee every year, and the 2019 data was also reviewed by the Bioethics Committee.

The Korea Welfare Panel is a longitudinal survey of the entire country, including Jeju Island, and is surveyed annually by selecting a total of 7,000 households from low-income households and 3,500 households for each income class through stratified colony system extraction. In addition, the Korea Welfare Panel is a survey that secured national representation by including various types of household types, including rural areas in towns and villages.

2.3. Research instrument

The variables selected to achieve the objective of this study are as [Table 1], and the higher score means the higher tendency.

Table 1. Definition and measurement method of variables

Variables		Measurement method	Cronbach's alpha
Dependent	Life satisfaction	Satisfaction with health, housing, environment, etc., average of 8 questions - 1(very dissatisfied) ~ 5(very satisfied)	.809
Socio-demographic characteristics	Gender	Male=1, Female=2	
	Age	60Y~69Y=1, 70Y~79Y=2, 80Y or up=3	
	Academic background	Graduation from elementary school or lower=1, Graduation from middle school=2, Graduation from high school or higher=3	
	Religion	No religion=0. Having religion=1	
Independent	Satisfaction with income	Single item: 1(very dissatisfied) ~ 5(very satisfied)	
Mediate	Child relationship satisfaction	Single item: 1(very dissatisfied) ~ 7(very satisfied)	
	Self-esteem	Rosenberg's self-esteem. Mean of ten items : 1(low) ~ 4(high)	.951

2.4. Socio-demographic characteristics of the research subject

Of the total 286 divorced elderly women, 52.4% were women and 47.6% were men. The gender ratio was similar between men and women, and women were slightly more than men. The most common age of divorced elderly was 60-69 years old, with 60.8%, 70-79 years old, 31.8%, and 80 years old or older in 7.3%. The proportion of divorced elderly was relatively high among the younger age groups. As for the academic background, 40.6% of those who had graduated from elementary school or lower were the most, followed by 32.9% of those who had graduated from high school or higher and 26.6% of those who had graduated from middle school. Religious elderly and non-religious elderly both accounted for the same rate at 50.0% [Table 2].

Table 2. Socio-demographic characteristics of the research subject (N=286)

		N	%	M(SD)
Gender	Male	136	47.6	-
	Female	150	52.4	
Age	60Y~69Y	174	60.8	68.58 (6.725)
	70Y~79Y	91	31.8	
	80Y or up	21	7.3	
Academic background	Elementary school or lower	116	40.6	-
	Middle school	76	26.6	

	High school or higher	94	32.9	
Religion	No religion	143	50.0	-
	Having religion	143	50.0	

2.5. Analysis method

To achieve the purpose of this study, frequency, t-test, one-way ANOVA, and correlation analysis were performed using SPSS21.0.

3. Results

3.1. The difference in life satisfaction to the sociodemographic characteristics of the elderly

As a result of examining the difference in life satisfaction according to the socio-demographic characteristics of the divorced elderly, there were no significant differences in all variables such as gender, age, education, and religion [Table 3]. Therefore, in the subsequent analysis, the sociodemographic characteristics of the divorced elderly were not statistically controlled.

Table 3. The difference in life satisfaction according to the sociodemographic characteristics of the elderly (N=286)

		N	M	S. D	t/F	Duncan
Gender	Male	132	3.12	.561	-.847	.
	Female	149	3.17	.538		
Age	60Y~69Y	171	3.15	.564	.173	N.S
	70Y~79Y	89	3.15	.507		
	80Y or up	21	3.08	.621		
Academic background	Elementary school or lower	281	3.15	.549	2.749	N.S
	Middle school	115	3.06	.595		
	High school or higher	73	3.18	.470		
Religion	No religion	93	3.23	.536	1.427	.
	Having religion	141	3.19	.535		

3.2. General trends and correlations of variables

To examine relationship among variables, namely, satisfaction with income, child relationship satisfaction, self-esteem, and life satisfaction, this study conducted correlation analysis, and found out that correlations among all the variables were significant [Table 4].

As the income satisfaction of the elderly divorced in Korea increased, the satisfaction with their children, self-esteem, and life satisfaction all increased. And, as the correlation coefficient is from .191 to .665, there is no risk of multicollinearity between variables.

Next is the mean and standard deviation of each variable. Life satisfaction was 3.15 out of 5 points, higher than the median value of 3, and income satisfaction was 2.67 points, lower than the median value of 3 points. child relationship satisfaction was 3.96 points out of 7 points, lower than the median value of 4 points. Nevertheless, the self-esteem was quite high at 3.33 out of 4 points. In other words, if the median value is explained as a standard, it can be seen that life satisfaction is at an intermediate level, income satisfaction and child relationship satisfaction is low, and self-esteem is quite high.

Table 4. Correlation between variables (N=286)

	Satisfaction with income	Child relationship satisfaction	Self-esteem	Life satisfaction
Satisfaction with income				
child relationship satisfaction	.191**			
Self-esteem	.341***	.319***		
Life satisfaction	.655**	.358***	.560***	
Mean	2.67	3.96	3.33	3.15
S.M.	.882	2.238	.472	.549

4. Conclusion and discussion

The purpose of this study was to establish the basis for improving the life satisfaction of divorced elderly by identifying the paths of income satisfaction of divorced elderly to life satisfaction through child relationship satisfaction and self-esteem. To this end, the data of 286 divorced elderly aged 60 years and over were used for analysis among the data for the 14th year of the Korean Welfare Panel.

First, there was no difference in life satisfaction of the elderly according to socio-demographic characteristics such as gender, age, education, and religion. In other words, the life satisfaction of divorced elderly in Korea is not classified into groups according to socio-demographic characteristics. In the end, it can be interpreted that the divorced elderly in Korean society have a collective characteristic of “divorced elderly”, rather than differences in gender, age, educational background, and religion, unlike married elderly.

Second, the life satisfaction of the divorced elderly people was moderate with 3.15 points (out of 5 points), and the self-esteem was quite high with 3.33 points (out of 4 points). In other words, the divorced elderly people in Korea had high levels of life satisfaction and self-esteem, while income satisfaction and relationship satisfaction with their children were low. The elderly who are divorced in Korea face difficulties in getting divorced. They experience many difficulties such as loss of economic income due to changes in family structure, psychological and emotional problems (problems in performing roles, weakness of family functions, extreme distress and a sense of failure in marriage etc.), health problems, child rearing problems, and negative changes in social networks [8-9]. Nevertheless, the high level of life satisfaction and self-esteem disproves that they choose a happy divorce rather than an unhappy marriage. Therefore, rather than seeing divorce in old age as a painful life event, it can be seen that it is urgent to change the social perception that respects it as a “choice for happiness” for the rest of the time.

This study is meaningful in that it revealed the relationship between income satisfaction, relationship satisfaction with children, self-esteem, and life satisfaction of divorced elderly people. However, due to limitations of the Korean Welfare Panel data, it was not possible to consider the divorce timing of the divorced elderly or the time lapse after divorce. In future research, it is necessary to control the influence of these variables and present the research results. In addition, this study analyzed only the simple correlation between income satisfaction, relationship satisfaction with children, self-esteem, and life satisfaction of divorced elderly people, but it is also necessary to understand the structural relationship between these variables in future studies.

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