

## **Examining the Relationship between Social Welfare and Life Satisfaction (Case of Study: Citizens of Kashan City in 2015)**

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**Abstract:** *Following the failure of economic development and growth policies and dissatisfactions resulting from applying these policies, related discussions to life satisfaction was proposed among various experts. In their opinion, different factors can be effectual on life satisfaction. One of the most important factors is social welfare. This study is a social survey and it has used questionnaire for collecting data. Considering the results of Cronbach's alpha coefficients, validity of the research indices are proved. The statistical society comprises citizens of Kashan in 2015, 308 of whom were chosen based on Cochran formula and stratified random sampling. In this study, the relationship between individual welfare, social welfare and social welfare indices (social security, distributive justice, having access to natural resources and educational-cultural resources as well) on life satisfaction. The results of data analysis of questionnaires shows a positive correlation between social welfare and life satisfaction. Also individual welfare and social welfare explain 0.48 and 0.50 percent of life satisfaction variants respectively.*

**Keywords:** *Social security, life satisfaction, social welfare, distributive justice.*

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### **Introduction**

Human is a purposeful being and always seek to evaluate life status. He will not feel satisfies until he gets what he wants. It can be said for sure that the last dream of each person is achieving his goals and dreams, however the level of his goals and dreams root to the condition which he gets in interaction with the current situation and people. Therefore nowadays each developed society seeks for citizen satisfaction. Because life satisfaction has a high level of consistency and correlation with social and economic development (Ingle heart, 1998: 33). Satisfaction is one of the main elements of social order, consensus and correlation. It is important to be paid attention to, because we can recognize mental status of the society, also we can examine many social elements. On the other hand, we should know that the existence and permanence of life dissatisfaction among citizens, is problematic for each society. Because its permanence and spread causes fading people's commitment to value system and their trust to the other members of society, and it also can be a source of many social evolutions. Having positive emotions toward your situation is a conceptual element, but it has its roots in concrete situations. We cannot disregard this fact that the main element in individual positive or negative evaluation, is the conceptual analysis and evaluations that he has toward his own as well as his society situation comparing with others. If individual evaluation of his situation or his life has negative results, it will not stay limited to that section and effect many individual behaviors and tendencies toward

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individual status and social situation and it will revolutionize them (Hezarjaribi & Safari Shali, 2011: 5). On the other hand, social welfare is each society is one the most basic social demands which should be met. Social welfare is a perception related to economic, social and political situation. Some of its goals are to preserve human dignity, accountability of social members toward each other and promote capabilities. In other words, "social welfare comprises rules, regulations, plans and policies which are presented in welfare and social institution for meeting material and spiritual demands and supplying human wellbeing, in order to set the required background for growth and elevation" (Zahedi Asl, 2002: 6). Welfare causes security, peace and trust toward present and future. Therefore nowadays with new welfare institutions, such as welfare ministry, by statesmen, it can be said that social welfare is established to a great extent by government. Since one of the goals of social planning is attaining social welfare, and since welfare is one of the biggest concerns of statesmen nowadays, it can be summed that welfare is a human necessity as well as an important element in the society development. Different platforms of economic, cultural etc. development requires social welfare. Therefore there is no doubt that welfare should be created and preserves in all of its extents (Jaribi & Safari Shali, 2011: 3).

Social welfare comprises material and spiritual life. Material aspect emphasizes meeting basic demands, food, clothing, dwelling, job, hygiene and treatment. Spiritual aspect includes literacy and education, health, legal protection of public, having human, political, economic and social rights. So it can be said that social welfare has got a semantic integration with such concepts, social support, social supply, social service and wellbeing. Also they sometimes have shared conceptual territory and by these indices and aspects influence life satisfaction (Bawsh & Alamdar, 2012: 2). Distributive justice, social security, having access to natural and critical demands and cultural and social facilities, are the indices which are examined in the concept of social welfare in this research. Since life satisfaction is embedded in social welfare, one of the basic responsibilities of each government is to provide citizens with welfare and increase their life satisfaction. In order to form economic blooming, investing, planning and any other social activity, a peaceful and trusted background is needed. The existence of such security is a sign of welfare in a society. Therefore welfare is practically one of the goals and basic and necessary values of each society. It can be said that welfare is not only a human need, but also a very important factor in the development and improvement of each society. Considering the above points, we assume that a favorable state in social welfare indices, increases life satisfaction among people. In this research it is tried to examine the level of life satisfaction in citizens of statistical society, considering their social welfare state.

### **Theoretical Basis**

In this section we examine life satisfaction, social welfare and their relationship.

#### ***Life Satisfaction***

Life satisfaction is a shared issue among psychologists and sociologists. They tried so hard to recognize influencing items on it and their consequences on people's individual and social life. Considering this fact, absolute developmental policies initiated, because many experts believe that their inefficacy is due to the negligence of these policies to basic human demands. They proposed some developmental indices for removing this problem which is known as human development index. This index is formed with this hypothesis that human is not a one-dimensional creature and economic growth does not necessarily lead to people's wellbeing and satisfaction, and as it can be observed in experience developmental policies can exacerbate poverty, inequality and dissatisfaction. Regardless of individual consequences, life satisfaction has got several significant social consequences. As an instance, such a feeling can guarantee individual and social health. It can also accelerate the process of development by creating hope and optimism and removing powerlessness and seclusion. It can also guarantee society survival by creating feeling of attachment and social commitment. Dissatisfaction engenders pessimism and in a long run leads to seclusion and distrust in society. It ruins social assets and if it continues, next generation would be a victim too. Studies have shown that the importance of life satisfaction, especially in teens, is so important that the amount of deviant behaviors in future and being a victim of deviant behaviors in future can be predicted based on that. Generally life satisfaction

is one of the elements which can set the background for development (Rabani, 2011: 82). Experts proposed several definitions for life satisfaction. As Smith states, it seems that scientists mostly have not made a clear distinction between life satisfaction and quality of life. Life satisfaction means individual attitude toward his life. Someone who has a high level of life satisfaction, has a positive attitude toward his life, but someone who is not satisfied with his life, has a negative attitude. Davis and Noatsum consider life satisfaction as a set of compatible and incompatible emotions and a sign of matching human expectations with life rewards. We can say that generally life satisfaction is a kind of positive feeling of human to his life which is the result of factors like: life condition, relationships ruling life and cultural effects. Therefore in a general perspective it can be said that life satisfaction is an emotion which is affected by social factors. As result life satisfaction can be considered as a subjective concept and his overall impression of his life. According to Mazola, human has got five kinds of innate demands: physical demands, needing security, social relationship and devotion, needing approval and respect and self-seeking (Mazola, 1977: 85 quoted by Rafipoor 1999).

Mazola in his hierarchical theory, consider “satisfaction” synonymous with “satisfying demand, supplying demand and meeting demand”. Satisfying demand comprises states like virility, agility, enjoyment and reward. When one of the demands are met, other demand happen to be important and will dominate the person’s behavior until we reach to the lowest level of hierarchy. Normally some of the basic demands of people are met in society and some others remain unsatisfied. In Mazola’s opinion, the percentage of people’s satisfaction in meeting demands is increased gradually. It is directly related to people’s expectations. There is a question that which one of human demands, which lead to life satisfaction in different people, is met and to what extent? Regarding this question Mazola believes that human needs differ among people and they are relative. No one has satisfied all of his needs and no one has reached the level of full life satisfaction. It should be noted that some of the demands in these categorizes are similar. For example in the fourth category, needing respect, appreciation, honor, pride, value and prestige are near to each other. Secondly Mazola believes that they have hierarchy: inferior demands and excellent demands. That is to say, people firstly care about physical demands (inferior demands). When these demands are satisfied, needing security is presented and then relationship, respect respectively. Finally, after all of other demands are met, needing contemplation about meaning and content is proposed (Rafipoor, 1999: 41). Robert Merton, in analyzing the phenomenon of life satisfaction, accentuated relative exclusion. In his opinion, relative exclusion is a mental status and a feeling of shortage which someone feels when he compares himself with another person or group who is a comparison reference for him (Merton, 1967: 288 quoted from Safdari, 1995). Relative exclusion is beneficial in calculating feeling of dissatisfaction (the same: 269).

### ***Social Welfare***

It is a concept related to economic, social and political situation which aims at preserving human dignity and accountability toward each other and improving their capabilities. Welfare refers to a state of health, happiness, felicity, being good and helpful special as the sort of money, food and other necessities which is given to poor people. It was firstly used as infinitive “to well fare” which meant being good and having fun. Social embodies the relationship between society and welfare and confronting harms which we are faced with in society. Social welfare comprises material and spiritual life. Material aspect emphasizes meeting basic demands, food, clothing, dwelling, job, hygiene and treatment. Spiritual aspect includes literacy and education, health, legal protection of public, having human, political, economic and social rights. So it can be said that social welfare has got a semantic integration with such concepts, social support, social supply, social service and wellbeing. Also they sometimes have shared conceptual territory and by these indices and aspects influence life satisfaction (Bawsh & Alamdar, 2012: 2). Distributive justice, social security, having access to natural and critical demands and cultural and social facilities, are the indices which are examined in the concept of social welfare in this research. In Oli Dior’s opinion, social security should not be used with economic, political and environmental security. Its equal concept is national security. Because nowadays social security is the source of national security and it is related to identity which is an important topic. In his opinion, social security is defined as the capability of society for preserving basic features under real and probable changing and menacing situation. He accentuates the close relationship between identity,

society and security and remarks that society looks for its security and identity (Navidnia, 2003: 62). Related to distributive justice, David Miller introduces some of the mutual principles of justice in his book. These principles include “to each person based on his demands”, “to each person based on his right”, to each person based on his propriety” (Hood, 2004: 441). In Miller’s opinion, the feeling of equality, which is related to social justice, is distributive in nature. It means the benefits of a special kind- such as right- should be distributed equally, because justice need it (Craig, 2008: 178). Based on the common divisions in sociology, approaches and theories related to welfare are divided into 2 categories: pluralism and individualism. Consequently there are some solutions available. Advocates of individualism believe that “welfare development is dependent on market system and it would be possible through producing goods which people need”. Advocates of pluralism interpret welfare necessities in social context. In their opinion there are some social values which should be heightened regardless of people’s options. From this perspective, mass phenomena are compared based on poverty and deprivation decrease and equality increase and welfare equipment are examined based on their resulting increase in the amount of material goods. Considering both individualism and pluralism in welfare, Lbvks and Wilensky presented some theories. The first category of welfare is called sedimentary concept in which social security institutions come into action in the case of disorder in family resources and occurrence of poverty and inability, and in this regard the people themselves are the first undertaker. The second kind of welfare is called reconstructive concept, which is confirmed by pluralists. In this approach, government is responsible for planning before disorder occurrence. It must put social security as the first priority in its agenda (Meyjeli, 1999: 140).

But the failure of market system in making human blissful, faced these theories with crisis and most of the current approaches in social welfare, which originate from examinations of insufficiency claimed about market system, are based on individualism. Considering modern approaches are based on the responsibility of society toward people. Social welfare includes “happiness (being good and acting well”, security “income, occupation and dwelling security), preferences and demands, liberation and relative comparisons” (Patrick, 2002: 20). Bentam, Bigo and Norman Berry are considered as the main experts in the field of social security. Bentam agrees with Adam Smith in that society is nothing except a collection of people. He believed that we do not have to limit our discussion into individual welfare. In Bentam’s opinion, welfare can be measured and this measurability allows us to combine individual welfare and measure the dense level of social welfare in total. In this sense social welfare is a kind of mechanical and simple density of individual welfare. In his opinion, social welfare equals the maximum of felicity and happiness for most of people (Patrick, 31-32: 2002). Also Pigo, welfare economist, argued that comparisons among people can be executed, because welfare is related to wishes and dreams and they can be measured by monetary standards. As much as I am willing to pay for something, my wish is stronger, therefore having/ possessing that thing increases my welfare. As a result individual welfare is closely related to market choices and it can be said that social welfare fluctuates based on national wealth boom or bust, which is measurable according to national gross production (Zahedi et al. 2008: 115). Norman proposes welfare in the context of concepts like justice, equality, law and freedom. He is one of philosophers who believes that the main responsibility of welfare in society is people’s comfort and the concept which is exclusively related to welfare more than others, is justice. In his opinion welfare government is formed based on a concept of justice, which is redistributive justice (Berry, 2009: 12).

### ***The relationship between social welfare and life satisfaction***

Since life satisfaction is affected by many indices of social welfare, one of the goals of social planning is to attain social welfare. Welfare causes security, peace and trust toward present and future. Therefore nowadays with new welfare institutions, such as welfare ministry, by statesmen, it can be said that social welfare is established to a great extent by government. Since a part of life satisfaction is related to their level of social welfare, one of the main duties of each government is to establish citizen’s welfare and increase their life satisfaction. In order to form economic blooming, investing, planning and any other social activity, a peaceful and trusted background is needed. The existence of such security is a sign of welfare in a society. Therefore welfare is practically one of the goals and basic and necessary values of each society. It can be said that welfare is not only a human need, but

also a very important factor in the development and improvement of each society (Jaribi & Safari Shali, 2011: 3). Value status theory deals with effecting factors on felicity and life satisfaction. It pays the same amount of attention to the level of data as the level of reward. Based on this theory, everyone likes to have a good status in society, workplace and family based on his situation (including degree, effort and try, facilities etc.). If he has this status, welfare and consequently the amount of happiness and satisfaction from his life would increase, otherwise he would feel bored, hopeless and dissatisfied (Mirzai et al, 2011: 125). Based on Tdgar's approach, relation exclusion, a person would compare himself with other people or groups and would like to have a similar situation. As a result of this comparison if he feels that based on his investment and effort, the resulting reward is not fair, he would feel relative exclusion and it will result in dissatisfaction and lack of welfare (Hezar Jaribi & Safari Shali, 2011: 13). Based on the theory of Abraham Mazola, if human innate needs (such as physical demands, the need to security, social relationships and affection, confirmation and respect and self-seeking), be supported, life satisfaction would be in a favorable level. In Patrick's opinion, "welfare is an individual issue, because even if we consider it in social context, we cannot separate social welfare from its citizens' welfare. Therefore even if we consider welfare to have public and shared aspects, we cannot consider it as a criterion without regard to people's welfare who are the composing elements of society (Patrick, 2002: 30). Regarding this fact that social welfare is having social gifts for providing required facilities for a better and more comfortable life, it can be said that with an increase in the amount of welfare and social welfare, life satisfaction will increase.

### **Research Background**

There have been some researches regarding the relationship between social welfare and life satisfaction. Salman Safdari (1995) in his research called social satisfaction and factors effecting on it, deals with the relationship of different variables related to psychology, psychology sociology, or sociology with social satisfaction as a variable. In his thesis, he has examine the feeling of relative exclusion, hope, social trust, individualism, a sense of belonging and social support, demand, political trust, feeling distributive justice and security. He has evaluated and proved the relationship of these variables with life satisfaction. His statistical society were over 18-year-olds people in areas 6, 1, 16 of Tehran. Also Haghju (2002), has done a research called "social welfare and development". It is mentioned in this research that overcoming poverty has always been a strategic purpose for equality oriented governments. Due to this fact, development policies and plans accentuated equality and distribution, and such governments have always tried to balance social gap. We have observed many fluctuations in policy making in Iran since 1996. The existence of explicit and implicit inflation, favorable situation for bribery, fragile economic structure, 9-year war, neutral management system, social problems growth (unemployment, addiction etc.) and growing amount of people who are under poverty line have imposed an unfavorable situation to the economic and social situation of our country and ignored the issue of social welfare (Haghju: 75, 2002).

Hezar jaribi and Safari (2009), in their research called life satisfaction and the status of security in it, dealt with the relationship between variables like hope to future, feeling of justice, exclusion, religiosity, meeting demands etc. and life satisfaction. This research was done all over Tehran with 600 samples. Researchers concluded that individual satisfaction is increasing, but social satisfaction is decreasing. They also resulted that among the examined variables, security mostly explains life satisfaction variable. Another research was done by Reza Safari Shali in Tehran in 2011, which was called examining the feeling of social welfare and the affecting features. It examines one of the most important social issues, the amount of social welfare in Tehran citizens. Current research is of comparative type which deals with relationship and interaction of variables are examined. The results of this research shows that based on regression model, effecting factors on welfare are as follows: trust to authorities' efficiency (with coefficient of 0.24), religiosity (with the coefficient of 0.18), social and economic station of people (with the coefficient of 0.13), sense of social justice (with the coefficient of 0.12). These factors have positive (direct) relationship with social welfare among people, but these factors decrease social welfare: feeling of social alienation (with the coefficient of -0.38), fatalism (with the coefficient of -0.15). Brent Bliz (2005) in his research, examined different evaluations of welfare in recent years. He accounted for topics like internal revenue as welfare examiner. It seems

that some problems have increased in developing countries. Three various methods are examined for social welfare. The first method is about developing internal account which considers welfare extent theoretically. The second method examines primary issues (such as analysis, special care) as a social marker, and in the last method mental status and his social welfare is examined based on the resulted data (Hezar Jaribi & Safari Shali, 2011: 5). Manley in Britain believes that in recent years 1991-2001 some evidence have been resulted in the field of welfare policy making which shows some ambiguity. In these research little attention has been paid to such questions: how different levels of social welfare planning has effected people? Although government policy about dwelling in last 20 years, lead to tenure policy, dwelling mass production. With due consideration to policy making, elimination of social problems in some areas without any benefit, is examined. In this research, the effect of different welfare policies which are seeking for social welfare is proposed based on planning criterion (Manley, 2001: 5). Lekend believes that the feeling of prejudice and social inequality have reverse connection with life satisfaction (Lekend, 315: 2000). Based on the theoretical basis, researches and their results, it is proved that there is a positive and direct relationship between welfare, social welfare and life satisfaction.

Considering the above discussions, research hypothesis include the relationship between each of these variants: having access to educational and cultural resources, natural demands, social welfare, individual welfare, social security, social justice with life satisfaction.

### **Research Method**

The objective of this research is to examine the relationship between welfare and social welfare with life satisfaction of Kashan citizens. It is a quantitative research and it is of social survey kind which is done in 2015. The statistical society is the 15 to 65 year-old people in Kashan. The studied sample was 308 people which was attained by Cornbach's sampling formula. Quota sampling was used for distributing questionnaires. Questionnaires' validity was confirmed by face validity and stability using Cronbach's alpha. Data were codified by SPSS software, then they were analyzed with descriptive and inferential statistics.

### **Research Findings**

At first we describe the main concepts of the research and then we will analyze the data.

#### **Descriptive data**

In this section, first the individual features of the responders are presented, then the concept of life satisfaction, individual and social welfare, having access to cultural and social facilities and natural demands are described.

#### **Individual features**

From among 308 responders, 45.8 percent were female and 54.2 percent were men. 56.5 percent of them were single and 56/5 percent of them were married. The age range of responders was 20-24. Their educational level of 1 percent was primary school, 3.9 percent secondary school, 10.7 percent high school, 25.6 percent diploma, 58.8 percent B.A or more. Their working status of 10.6 of them was housekeeping, 7 percent of them were received salary but they did not have any job, 41.7 percent of them were students and 40.7 percent of whom had a full-time job.

#### **Life Satisfaction**

Frequency distribution and the percentages of responders' responses to items of life satisfaction is presented in the following table.

*Table (1): comparable statistics of life satisfaction*

Index	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std	Skewness	Kurtosis
Life satisfaction	25	25	120	94.4	15.1	-0.88	1

This table shows the extent of responders' life satisfaction using 25 items. The average of responders' scores in this variable was 94.4 and its standard deviation was 15.1, in such a way that in the statistical society, the minimum score is 25 and the maximum score is 30. The extent of Cronbach's alpha for life satisfaction is 0.79 which is almost good.

*Table (2): frequency distribution and the percentage of life satisfaction*

Cases	Frequency	valid Percent
Low	6	1.9
Average	106	34.4
High	196	63.6
Sum	308	100

Based on the results of this table, the level of life satisfaction is 1.9 percent at least, 34.4 percent in an average level, and 63.3 percent at most.

### **Independent variables of the research**

#### *Social welfare*

In this research some variables are used to examine the citizen's social welfare. These variables are as follows: social security, distributive justice, having access to natural and vital resources, social and cultural facilities.

#### *Having access to cultural and educational facilities*

Including cultural centers, universities and schools, cultural facilities, equipment and educational CDs, the internet and virtual networking.

#### *Having access to natural demands*

Human has got five kinds of innate demands: physical demands, needing security, social relationship and devotion, needing approval and respect and self-seeking (Mazola, 1977: 85 quoted by Rafipoor 1999). They are examined in this research.

#### *Justice (distributive)*

Distributive justice expresses the person's perception about distribution of justice and allocating resources and rewards (Moshref Javadi et al, 2010: 15).

#### *Social security*

Security means supporting a nation from physical attack and preserving economic actions from outer desolator happenings (Hoffman, 1981: 405). Society is a social system which is comprised of elements and other subsystems which are interrelated. In addition, social system is connected with outer milieu which, in functionalists' opinion, is the secret to duration and stability of these societies. In this regard, social security means the security of internal social subsystems and systems (Lerni, 2004: 35).

**Table (3): comparable statistics about independent variables of the research**

Index	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std	Skewness	Kurtosis
Access to facilities and cultural facilities	5	5	25	16.20	4.44	0.046	0.96
Access to natural needs	6	6	30	20.7	4.1	-0.034	0.036
Individual well-being	8	8	37	16.51	5.10	0.501	0.388
social Security	4	4	20	12.91	2.81	-0.514	0.429
Distributive justice	5	5	30	20.5	3.37	0.83	-0.434
social welfare	47	56	104	84.56	7.64	-0.49	0.54

The above table shows that responders' access to cultural facilities is examined using 5 items. The average of responders' scores in this variable is 16.20 and its standard deviation is 4.44. Cronbach's alpha in educational and cultural facilities access is 0.86 which is high. With due consideration to the table, responders' access to natural demands is also examined using 6 items. The average score of responders in this variable is 20.7 and its standard deviation is 4.1, in such a way that the minimum score in statistical society is 6 and the maximum score is 30. Cronbach's alpha in natural and vital demands access is 0.85. With due consideration to the table, responders' level of welfare is examined using 8 items. The average score of responders in this variable is 16.51 and its standard deviation is 5.10, in such a way that the minimum score in statistical society is 5 and the maximum score is 8. Cronbach's alpha in welfare status is 0.69 which is rather high and good. Responders' level of social security is examined using 4 items. The average score of responders in this variable is 12.91 and its standard deviation is 2.81, in such a way that the minimum score in statistical society is 4 and the maximum score is 20. Cronbach's alpha in social security is 0.79 which is rather high. Responders' sense of distributive justice is examined using 5 items. The results of Cronbach's alpha for measuring validity and distributive justice is 0.79 percent. The average score of responders in this variable is 20.5 and its standard deviation is 3.37, in such a way that the minimum score in statistical society is 8 and the maximum score is 30. Responders' social welfare is examined using 47 items. The average score of responders in this variable is 84.56 and its standard deviation is 7.64, in such a way that the minimum score in statistical society is 56 and the maximum score is 104. Cronbach's alpha in social justice is 0.89 which is high.

In the following table frequency distribution and percentage of research variables is presented.

**Table (4): frequency distribution and the percentage of social welfare affecting responders' life satisfaction**

Variable	Low		Average		High		sum	
	Frequency	valid Percent	Frequency	valid Percent	Frequency	valid Percent	Frequency	valid Percent
social Security	33	10.7	186	60.4	39	28.9	308	100.0
Distributive justice	40	13	151	49	117	38	308	100.0
Access to facilities and cultural facilities	42	13.6	167	54.2	99	32.1	308	100.0
Individual well-being	179	58.1	120	39	9	2.9	308	100.0
Access to natural needs	۲۱	6.8	182	59.1	105	34.1	308	100.0
social welfare	۳۴	11	220	71.4	54	17.5	308	100.0

### Data analysis

In the following table, the results of research related to abovementioned variables are presented.



*Table (5): the results of the relationship between social factors affecting life satisfaction*

Variable	Life satisfaction					correlation	sig
	Low	Average	High	Sum			
social Security	Low	6.1	51.5	42.4	100.0	0.354	0.000
	Average	1.6	44.6	53.8	100.0		
	High	1.1	6.7	92.1	100.0		
	sum	1.9	34.4	63.6	100.0		
Access to natural needs	Low	4.8	66.7	28.6	100.0	0.301	0.000
	Average	2.2	40.7	57.1	100.0		
	High	1	17.1	81.9	100.0		
	sum	1.9	34.4	63.6	100.0		
Distributive justice	Low	4.2	43.8	52.1	100.0	0.227	0.000
	Average	1	29.7	69.3	100.0		
	High	0	40	60	100.0		
	sum	1.9	34.4	63.6	100.0		
Access to facilities and cultural facilities	Low	2.4	57.1	45.5	100.0	0.189	0.001
	Average	1.2	35.9	62.9	100.0		
	High	3	22.2	74.7	100.0		
	sum	1.9	34.4	63.9	100.0		
Individual well-being	Low	1.1	16.2	82.7	100.0	0.38	0.000
	Average	1.7	58.3	40	100.0		
	High	22.2	77.8	0	100.0		
	sum	1.9	34.4	63.6	100.0		
social welfare	Low	5.3	57.9	36.8	100.0	0.310	0.000
	Average	2.3	43.9	53.8	100.0		
	High	0.9	16.4	82.8	100.0		
	sum	1.9	34.4	63.6	100.0		

Based on the findings of the above table, with an increase in social welfare, social security, a sense of distributive justice, access to natural demands and cultural and educational facilities, life satisfaction is increased as well. As an instance, the level of life satisfaction in a secure society is 92.1 percent, while the same percent in an insecure society is reduced to 1.1.

Considering the results of the above table shows a meaningful relationship between social justice and the extent of life satisfaction ( $p < 0.05$ ). In other words, considering positivity of the resulted correlation coefficient ( $r = 0.227$ ), it can be concluded that with an increase in the sense of distributive justice, meaningful increase occurs in people's life satisfaction. There is a meaningful relationship between social security and the extent of life satisfaction ( $p < 0.05$ ). In other words, considering positivity of the resulted correlation coefficient ( $r = 0.354$ ), it can be concluded that with an increase in social security, life satisfaction increases as well. Statistical activities of Pearson with ( $\text{sig} = 0.000$  and  $r = 0.301$ ) expresses a meaningful and direct relationship between life satisfaction and the extent of access to natural demands. That is to say, with an increase in the extent of access to natural demands, life satisfaction increases as well. There is a meaningful relationship between access to educational and cultural facilities and the extent of life satisfaction ( $p < 0.05$ ). In other words, considering positivity of the resulted correlation coefficient ( $r = 0.189$ ), it can be concluded that with an increase in social security, life satisfaction increases as well. Statistical activities of Pearson with ( $\text{sig} = 0.000$  and  $r = 0.301$ ) expresses a meaningful and direct relationship between life satisfaction and the extent of social welfare. That is to say, with an increase in the extent of social welfare, life satisfaction increases as well.

### Multi-variable Analysis

Multiple regression is used in this section to explain the set of factors. Multiple regression is a statistical method in which variables are examined together for explaining the dependent variable. In order to attain such a target, stepwise regression is used. It should be mentioned that in stepwise method, all of the variables are entered to the model and just the ones which have more and meaningful effect on the dependent variable, remain in the model. In multiple regression analysis in this research variables of (individual welfare, social welfare and materialism) are equated. From among the entered variables to the equation, variables of social welfare and individual welfare are recognized meaningful in an alpha level of 0.05 and stayed in the equation. Other variables were eliminated from the equation.

*Table (6): The results of stepwise regression for welfare and life satisfaction*

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. error of the Estimate
1	0.483	0.233	0.230	0.4610
2	0.515	0.265	0.260	0.4220

- Model 1: independent variable: individual welfare
- Model 2: social welfare

In the first model, the most effective variable in life satisfaction is individual welfare. It has more than 48 percent of correlation with life satisfaction (R=0.483). R square, 0.233, which represents the extent of changes in independent variables due to fluctuations, shows that individual welfare explains about 23 percent of changes in responders' life satisfaction. Also the related column to adjusted R square shows that more than 23 percent of changes in life satisfaction of research's statistical society can be explained by individual welfare. The second model is about social welfare. It has more than 51 percent of correlation with life satisfaction (R=0.515). R square, 0.265, which represents the extent of changes in independent variables due to fluctuations, shows that individual welfare explains about 26 percent of changes in responders' life satisfaction. Also the related column to adjusted R square shows that more than 25 percent of changes in life satisfaction of research's statistical society can be explained by individual welfare.

*Table (7): variance analysis for testing meaningfulness of regression model*

Model	SS	df	MS	F	Sig
<b>Regression</b>	22.467	2	11.234		
<b>residue</b>	62.325	305	0.204	54.974	0.000
<b>Total</b>	84.792	307			

Considering table 28, the amount of p is less than meaningfulness level, 0.05. Thereupon the explained regression figure, resulted from variance analysis is linear. In order to depict the intensity and direction of effects of independent variables on life satisfaction more accurately, effective coefficient has been used.

*Table (8): effective coefficients of independent variables in regression figure using stepwise method*

Variable	Unstandardized Coefficients		standardized Coefficients	t	sig
	B	Std. error	Beta		
<b>Constant</b>	2.817	0.146	-	19.271	0.000
<b>Individual welfare</b>	0.407	0.49	0.429	8.373	0.000
<b>social welfare</b>	0.168	0.46	0.187	3.644	0.000

Nonstandard effective coefficient (B) shows that with a single unit change in individual welfare, 0/407 unit is added to responders' life satisfaction. Also with due consideration to the resulted t amount in table 8, which receives a good level of meaningfulness, we can judge confidently that a part of changes and fluctuations in responders' life satisfaction is based on individual and social welfare.

## Conclusion

In this research, the relationship between social welfare (a sense of distributive justice, social security, having access to natural demands and educational and cultural facilities) and individual welfare with the extent of life satisfaction in responders. There is a positive and meaningful relationship between life satisfaction and social security. (Sig=0.000 and  $r=0.354$ ) that is to say, with an increase in social security, life satisfaction is increased as well. The findings of this research is congruence with the theoretical discussions of experts and the studies of researchers in this field. Pir Moazen (2010) propose this theory: to the same extent that security is consolidated and established in individual area, variables of lushness, vitality, trust, attitude, satisfaction and dynamism are crystalized into families and societies and the great feeling of trust is flourished (Pir Moazen, 2010: 103). David Kaploveitz and Norman Bradborn from NORC in America were the first ones to evaluate life satisfaction and security among people. They pointed out to the importance of life satisfaction in policies for social development and national planning. Safari Shali and Hezar Jaribi (2009), examined life satisfaction and the status of security. The results show that security is effectual on life satisfaction, therefore we can point out to the importance of organizations (like police and welfare institutions) in creating and maintaining security among people. Mohseni Tabrizi and Heydari (2012) examined the effect of social security on life satisfaction among people. The results of the research shows that social security is highly correlated with life satisfaction among the studied people. Although social security aspects (job, economic, welfare and hygiene facilities, political and judicial) were considered and the results showed that job security and economic security is mostly effective on life satisfaction. In this research the meaningfulness of the relationship between distributive justice and life satisfaction was proved (sig=0.006 and  $r=0.227$ ). The result of this study and Safari Shali believe that life satisfaction and the feeling of distributive justice are highly correlated (Safari Shali, 135: 2004).

The results of this research are concordant with that of Rafii Bahabadi, which states that the effective variable on life satisfaction is the sense of distributive justice. The negative evaluation of people about inequality in facility distribution and economic, political and social resources sets the ground for situations like distributive inequality and the feeling of relative exclusion, each of which is one of the important factors in dissatisfaction. The meaningfulness of the relationship between natural demands and life satisfaction was proved in this study (sig=0.006 and  $r=0.301$ ). That is to say, with an increase in the extent of access to natural demands, life satisfaction increases. The findings of this research is concordant with the demand and satisfaction theory of Mazola (1995). In such a way that by meeting demands, life satisfaction increases. Also Safari Shali and Hezar Jaribi (2009) examined that relationship between life satisfaction and feeling of security. The results showed that meeting the demands are highly effective on life satisfaction. Masoud Golchin, Shapoor Zardmui Ordoklo examined life satisfaction in teenagers in Tehran, based on their family discipline. Results show that meeting the need for belonging, love, respect and cognitive demands are mostly effective on their satisfaction with their family lives. It proves this theory: when the least need for physical and material demands are met, mental and social demands are come to be important and effective. In addition there is a positive and meaningful relationship between access to cultural and educational facilities and life satisfaction. (Sig=0.01 and  $r=0.189$ ). That is to say, with an increase in the access to social and cultural facilities, life satisfaction increases. There is also positive and meaningful relationship between social welfare and life satisfaction. The amount of (sig=0.000 and  $r=0.310$ ) shows that with an increase in social welfare, life satisfaction increases as well. The result of this research is in concordance with Macaro theory (1999) which states: social welfare is considered as a set of situations in which human happiness is important, and consequently increases life satisfaction. Therefore the results of this research shows that welfare and social welfare is highly effective on life satisfaction and can have an important role in increasing or decreasing life satisfaction among citizens. As a result paying attention to welfare and social welfare and its indices are necessary and we should try to improve living situation in society.

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