

The Relation between Life Satisfaction and Needs: A Test of Need-Hierarchy Theory in Taiwan

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ABSTRACT

This study tested the hypotheses emerged from Maslow's (1970) need-hierarchy theory, and found that familial income (physiological needs), environmental security (safety needs), family life (love and intimacy), as well as social status (self-esteem) could all predict the degree of one's life satisfaction (LS). Higher needs i.e. family life and social status had higher β s than lower needs, i.e. familial income and safety. However, family life and social status did not differ on predicting one's LS as it was assumed in individualism society and thus implied some cultural connotation. The interaction effect between social status and family life was not significant and did not support the hypothesis that the effect of family life might differ among different social status. Whereas the interaction effects between social status and familial income as well as environmental security supported the hypothesis that the satisfaction with physiological and safety needs had stronger effect among people of lower social status than people of higher status.

Keywords: life satisfaction, needs, need-hierarchy, social status

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