



PERGAMON

Personality and Individual Differences 32 (2002) 1149–1155

PERSONALITY AND
INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCES

www.elsevier.com/locate/paid

Multidimensional life satisfaction reports of adolescents: a multitrait–multimethod study

Tammy Dew Gilligan^a, E. Scott Huebner^{b,*}

^a*Department of Psychology, James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA 22807, USA*

^b*Department of Psychology, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC 29208, USA*

Received 19 May 2000; received in revised form 7 September 2000; accepted 4 October 2000

Abstract

The convergent and discriminant validity of adolescents' domain-specific life satisfaction reports (family, opposite-sex friends, same-sex friends, self, school, living environment) were investigated using the Students' Multidimensional Life Satisfaction Scale-Adolescent version [Gilligan, T. D., Huebner, E. S., & Laughlin, J. E. (submitted)]. Analyses of the multitrait, multimethod matrix based on parent and adolescent ratings indicated support for convergent validity, but cautions with respect to discriminant validity. Implications for further research were discussed. © 2002 Elsevier Science Ltd. All rights reserved.

Keywords: Adolescent; Life satisfaction; Measurement

As highlighted in the January 2000 special issue of the *American Psychologist* (Seligman & Csikzentmihalyi, 2000), psychologists have recently begun to emphasize the promotion of optimal human functioning, including positive subjective well-being, especially among adults. Investigations of optimal functioning have increased as researchers have begun to question the assumption that positive well-being is defined by the absence of psychopathological symptoms. Although the dimensions of psychological well-being are debated, happiness or life satisfaction judgments have been included among the various suggested indicators of positive well-being (Cowen, 1991; Diener, Sapyta & Suh, 1998; Huebner, 1991; Seligman, 1998). Life satisfaction has been defined as a person's evaluation of various areas of life (Diener & Diener, 1995). It has been studied from both a global (i.e. satisfaction with life as a whole) and domain-specific perspective (e.g. satisfaction with school experiences). To date, much life satisfaction research has relied upon measures of

* Corresponding author. Tel.: +1-803-777-4137; fax: +1-803-777-9558.

E-mail address: huebner@sc.edu (E.S. Huebner).

global (i.e. unidimensional) life satisfaction rather than multidimensional measures. Although both perspectives provide useful information, the multidimensional measures offer the promise of richer, more differentiated profiles for possible applied uses of such scales (e.g. Frisch, Cornell, Villanueva & Retzlaff, 1992; Huebner, Laughlin, Gilman & Ash, 1998).

Although considerable attention has been paid to the study of life satisfaction among adults, little attention has been paid to the study of life satisfaction of children and adolescents. The lack of research may be related to the lack of reliable and valid measures of life satisfaction appropriate for children and youth (Bender, 1997). This study focuses on one recently developed measure, the Multidimensional Students' Life Satisfaction Scale-Adolescent Version (MSLSS-A: Gilligan, Huebner & Laughlin, submitted), which represents a modification of the Multidimensional Students' Life Satisfaction Scale (Huebner, 1994). The MSLSS-A, which is described in detail elsewhere (Gilligan et al.) was developed specifically for use with adolescents. The MSLSS-A measures satisfaction with six specific domains (family, same-sex friends, opposite-sex friends, school, self, and living environment).

In assessing life satisfaction in both children and adults, researchers frequently suggest obtaining information from multiple informants, including knowledgeable others, such as parents, teachers, or friends as well as self-reports. Research with adults and children has included studies of the correspondence between self-ratings and ratings of knowledgeable others. Previous research has generally found moderate correspondence between self and other-ratings. For example, Lucas, Diener and Suh (1996) reported a correlation of 0.41 between college students' self- and informant (parents or friends) ratings using the Satisfaction with Life Scale (Diener, Emmons, Larsen & Griffin, 1985), which measures global life satisfaction. Similarly, Dew and Huebner (1994) reported a correlation of 0.48 between the ratings of high school students and their parents, using the Students' Life Satisfaction Scale (Huebner, 1991), which also measures global life satisfaction. For the most part, these and other studies have focused on global ratings rather than domain-specific ratings. The use of a unidimensional, global rating of life satisfaction as a whole may mask significant others' knowledge or lack of knowledge of satisfaction levels with respect to more specific areas of life, such as satisfaction with school life. Informants may be less able to differentiate and estimate their adolescent's domain-based judgments compared to their global judgments, which require more specific knowledge. Thus, a demonstration of the construct validity of a multidimensional life satisfaction scale, such as the MSLSS-A, should incorporate an examination of the convergent and discriminant validity of each of the specific domains. The present study addressed this issue by asking parents to rate their adolescents' levels of satisfaction on the six dimensions of the MSLSS-A. Parent ratings were then compared to the adolescents' self-ratings within a multitrait, multimethod framework.

1. Method

1.1. Participants

The participants were 266 adolescents from grades 9–12 of two high schools with heterogeneous student populations from a metropolitan area of a southeastern US state. The mean age of the students was 16.2 (S.D. = 1.28) years. Thirty-five percent of the sample was male. A total of

متن کامل مقاله

دریافت فوری ←

ISIArticles

مرجع مقالات تخصصی ایران

- ✓ امکان دانلود نسخه تمام متن مقالات انگلیسی
- ✓ امکان دانلود نسخه ترجمه شده مقالات
- ✓ پذیرش سفارش ترجمه تخصصی
- ✓ امکان جستجو در آرشیو جامعی از صدها موضوع و هزاران مقاله
- ✓ امکان دانلود رایگان ۲ صفحه اول هر مقاله
- ✓ امکان پرداخت اینترنتی با کلیه کارت های عضو شتاب
- ✓ دانلود فوری مقاله پس از پرداخت آنلاین
- ✓ پشتیبانی کامل خرید با بهره مندی از سیستم هوشمند رهگیری سفارشات