

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN LIFE SATISFACTION AND LEVELS OF SOCIAL FUNCTIONING IN ELDERLY

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Purpose: This descriptive study aims to determine the relationship between life satisfaction and levels of social functioning in elderly.

Method: The sample of the study is consisted of 115 individuals who lives in a district of Aydın between January-March 2012 and who are volunteer to participate the study. The data were obtained from Sociodemographic Data Collection Form, Social Functioning Scale (SFS) and the Life Satisfaction Scale (LSS). Chi-square, Correlation, Mann-Whitney and Kruskal-Wallis tests were used in data analyzes.

Findings: 57.4% of the participants were women, 58.3% of elderly participants were married and 93% used auxiliary device. The mean LS total score of men were higher than women ($X=10.1 \pm 3.7$). There was a statistically significant relationship between total score of Life Satisfaction Scale and the subscales of Social Functioning. A statistically significant difference were found between age and interpersonal functioning, independence-competence, independence-performance subscales of SFS ($X^2= 11.584$, $p= 0.003$, $X^2= 14.988$, $p= 0.001$ and $X^2= 20.190$, $p= 0.00$ respectively). Unlike the male, life satisfaction scores were increased in females if leisure time activities were increased ($z=3.445$, $p=0.001$). There was a positive correlation between interpersonal functionality and life satisfaction score ($r=0.188$, $p=0.045$) in elderly. Interpersonal functioning and business-professional scores were lower in the individuals who were using the auxiliary devices (respectively $X^2=12.405$, $p=0.03$ and $X^2=25.674$, $p=0.00$). The individuals who live alone were more socially withdrawn than the others ($X^2= 41.289$, $p = 0.00$).

Results: Life satisfaction and social functioning in elderly were affected from each other in high levels.