

## Abstract

Despite the rapid economic growth after the Korean War, and the state's considerable investment in education, Korea's suicide rate has steadily risen as their economic conditions change. South Korean students are ranked at the bottom of international happiness survey. Adolescence is an important period for the development of personality and formation of the self-identity. The objective of this thesis is to investigate cross sectional data in the relationship between ecological development and adolescent life satisfaction. Data from the 2015 National Youth Policy Institute ( $N = 1533$  across 78 high schools in Korea) in high school students were analysed applying OLS and ordered probit model for measuring level of life satisfaction. The findings reveal that the most important variables associated with the happiness of students are level of health, recognition of community, school adaptation, and good peer relationships in high school. More researchers are starting to investigate adolescents' life satisfaction, but few studies have conducted life satisfaction in accordance with their gender using KCYPS data. Gender effect is significant for parental attention, school adaptation, and household income. These interesting examinations contributed to the determinants of happiness research can be used by policy makers for high school students. It found that boys and girls react differently, therefore, developing different environment in relation to gender is needed.