

Report on Bachelor / Master Thesis

Institute of Economic Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University

Student:	Anastasiia Tolnykina
Advisor:	Mgr. Barbara Pertold-Gebicka, M.A., Ph.D.
Title of the thesis:	Gender Differences in Life Satisfaction

OVERALL ASSESSMENT (provided in English, Czech, or Slovak):

Please provide your assessment of each of the following four categories, summary and suggested questions for the discussion. The minimum length of the report is 300 words.

Contribution

Anastasiia wrote her thesis on a relevant and increasingly popular topic of life satisfaction and happiness. She uses the longitudinal data collected in six waves over almost 40 years from the world survey „the World Values Survey“ (WVS) and examines gender differences in life satisfaction. The main contribution of the thesis lies in the comparison of women and men happiness that has been neglected in the literature for long time. The commentary on the thesis contribution could be further extended and elaborated in greater detail.

Methods

Anastasiia uses the freely accessible survey data from the WVS database. First, she comments on descriptive statistics of selected variables and the level of life satisfaction they are associated with. However, the description is to a certain level generic and therefore monotonous and hard to read. The confidence intervals for the satisfaction level are not included for specific variables (only for life satisfaction in general). Second, the author builds a simple logit model to estimate the causal effect of the selected variables on the variable of interest (i.e., life satisfaction). Although the author mentions the potential pitfalls of the econometric methodology, she does not test for them directly. Also, I would appreciate a discussion on a number of dependent (dummy) variables included.

Literature

The literature review is relatively brief (contains only seven references), and the newest study is dated to the year 2015. There is no reference included in the two first paragraphs (in the Literature Review chapter), that would support the author's statements (which I find problematic especially for the second paragraph). Also, the text in the fourth paragraph: „*Feminism entailed many changes in European and the US society, ... , all other things being equal.*“ is not referenced at all.

Several items in Bibliography are not appropriately referenced, e.g.,

„*Veenhoven, R. (1991). Questions on happiness.*“
should be referenced as

„*Veenhoven, R. (1991). Questions on happiness: classic topics, modern answers, blind spots. In F. Strach, M. Argyle, & N. Schwarz (Eds.), Subjective well being. Oxford, UK: Pergamon*“

or

„*Vieira-Lima, S. (2011). A cross-country investigation of the determinants of the happiness gender gap. Downloaded Jan, 14, 2014.*“

should be referenced as

„*Vieira-Lima, S. (2011). A cross-country investigation of the determinants of the happiness gender gap. Mimeo. Department of Economics, University of Milan-Bicocca: Milan, Italy.*“

suggesting the author is not fully aware of how to work with academic references. Moreover, the author uses inconsistent citation style: at page 5 she writes „*Stevenson and Wolfers (2009)*“, but at page 6 she uses the initial letters of the first name „*C. Graham and S. Chattopadhyay (2013)*“.

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Manuscript form

The thesis is written in average English (e.g., the author uses words „big“ or „quite“, grammar mistakes are common), typos are rather rare. The size of Figures 2.1, 2.2, 2.7 and 2.8 does not fit the size of the pages. Otherwise, the paragraphs and all the equations are well structured, so I have no further objections.

Summary and suggested questions for the discussion during the defense

The results of the Urkund analysis do not indicate significant text similarity with other available sources. In my view, the thesis fulfils the requirements for a bachelor thesis at IES, Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University, I recommend it for the defense and suggest a grade D, based on my review above.

The suggested questions for defense are:

How would you test for endogeneity in the empirical model?

In the thesis, happiness and life satisfaction are regarded as synonyms. How important is that in the context of interpreting the results?

SUMMARY OF POINTS AWARDED (for details, see below):

CATEGORY	POINTS
<i>Contribution</i> (max. 30 points)	22
<i>Methods</i> (max. 30 points)	20
<i>Literature</i> (max. 20 points)	10
<i>Manuscript Form</i> (max. 20 points)	16
TOTAL POINTS (max. 100 points)	68
GRADE (A – B – C – D – E – F)	D

NAME OF THE REFEREE:

Mgr. Kateřina Chadimová

DATE OF EVALUATION:

August 26, 2020

Digitally signed (26.8.2020)

Kateřina Chadimová

Referee Signature

EXPLANATION OF CATEGORIES AND SCALE:

CONTRIBUTION: *The author presents original ideas on the topic demonstrating critical thinking and ability to draw conclusions based on the knowledge of relevant theory and empirics. There is a distinct value added of the thesis.*

METHODS: *The tools used are relevant to the research question being investigated, and adequate to the author's level of studies. The thesis topic is comprehensively analyzed.*

LITERATURE REVIEW: *The thesis demonstrates author's full understanding and command of recent literature. The author quotes relevant literature in a proper way.*

MANUSCRIPT FORM: *The thesis is well structured. The student uses appropriate language and style, including academic format for graphs and tables. The text effectively refers to graphs and tables and disposes with a complete bibliography.*

Overall grading:

TOTAL	GRADE
91 – 100	A
81 - 90	B
71 - 80	C
61 – 70	D
51 – 60	E
0 – 50	F